Daily Report

Latin America

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FBIS-LAT-92-242 *16 December 1992*

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Central American Court of Justice Created

PA1612041792 Tegucigalpa LA TRIBUNA in Spanish 14 Dec 92 p 10

[Text] The Central American presidents assembled at the 13th regional summit in Panama signed the Bylaws Agreement creating the Central American Court of Justice.

The document spells out the court's duties, organization, jurisdiction, application of its rulings, and form of compliance as well as the general manner in which the citizens of these nations will be able to make use of the regional justice institution.

The following is the Constitution document:

13th Central American Presidential Summit

Bylaws Agreement for the Central American Court of Justice.

The presidents of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Panama;

Whereas:

The presidents of the Central American Isthmus signed the Tegucigalpa Protocol on 13 December 1991 whereby the Charter of the Organization of Central American States (ODECA) is modified. ODECA constitutes the Central American "Integration System," and in Article 12 it establishes the Central American Court of Justice, among other organizations in this system. The Court's integration, operation, and attributions should be regulated by its bylaws. These should be negotiated and signed by the member states within 90 days after 23 July 1992, the date on which the above mentioned Tegucigalpa Protocol becomes effective.

Whereas:

The Central American Supreme Courts of Justice, during their meetings in Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, and Nicaragua, have demonstrated their avid interest in creating the Central American Court of Justice by preparing outstanding legal works. This is especially true regarding the Bylaws Draft Agreement that was presented to our governments for their consideration and approval.

Therefore:

To this effect, the constitutional presidents of the Central American republics concur in approving the following agreement on:

The Bylaws of the Central American Court of Justice

Chapter I

Attributions and Organization

Article 1

The Central American Court of Justice, established by Article 12 of the Tegucigalpa Protocol to the ODECA Charter, is organized and will operate in agreement with the dispositions of the current bylaws, commands, rules, and resolutions that it may issue.

The Central American Court of Justice is the main and permanent judicial organ of the "Central American Integration System," whose regional jurisdiction and competence are of an obligatory nature for all the states.

In the text of this agreement, the Central American Court of Justice will also be referred to as "the Court."

Article 2

The Court will guarantee respect for the right to interpret and implement the "Tegucigalpa Protocol modifying ODECA" and its complementary documents or actions derived from the same.

Article 3

The Court will have its own jurisdiction, with power to hold trials at the request of the parties and to issue resolutions with the corresponding authority. Its decisions will be binding on all states, institutions, and organizations that are part of or that participate in the "Central American Integration System," as well as for those subject to private law.

Article 4

The Court will issue the bylaws as well as general, operational, or service rules to determine the procedure and the ways of carrying out its duties, but these should not contain norms that violate the present statute.

Article 5

The procedures contained in this statute as well as in the rules and bylaws will be aimed at safeguarding the proposals and principles of the "Central American Integration System," the objectivity of rights, equality among parties, and guarantees for the due process.

Article 6

The Court represents the national conscience of Central America and is also considered responsible and a protector of the values that constitute the Central American nationality. The magistrates who will make up the Court should not be inhibited from the exercise of their duties by the interest their countries of origin may have in any case or matter.

Article 7

The Court will exercise its functions in plenary sessions. It will also have the authority and the attributes to delegate its power and jurisdiction to courtrooms or chambers to learn details of lawsuits that have been sent

to it for adjudication. The rulings made by the chambers or courtrooms will not be open to appeal.
The Court will be based in Managua, Republic of Nicaragua, where it will operate permanently. However, it can hold sessions in any of the member countries if it is so agreed.

Article 8
The Court will be composed of one or more magistrates from each of the member countries.
Each magistrate will have a corresponding alternate magistrate, who should have the same qualifications as the permanent magistrate.

Article 9
The magistrates should be individuals with the highest moral characteristics and should meet the conditions required in his country to exercise the highest judicial functions. The age requirement can be waived for lawyers of outstanding competence in the judgment and resolution of the Court in his respective country.

Article 10
The Court magistrates and alternate magistrates will be elected by the member countries' Supreme Courts of Justice.
The elected officials will solemnly declare under oath before the Central American Judicial Council that they will exercise the post with justice, impartiality, and independence.

Article 11
The Court magistrates will hold the post for a 10-year period and can be reelected. Once the 10-year period ends, the magistrates will continue at their posts until their substitutes are sworn in.

Article 12
The Court magistrates and alternate magistrates can only be removed from their posts for reasons and procedures established in the regulations and after two thirds of the remaining Court magistrates have voted in favor of such a decision.

Article 13

In case of the temporary absence of a Court magistrate, the Court president will call the corresponding alternate magistrate, who will hold the post as long as the magistrate is absent. If said absence is permanent, the president will report it to the corresponding judicial branch or office so it can appoint a new magistrate for a complete period. Those actions will be carried out without impeding the alternate magistrate from holding the post until the new appointee assumes it.

Article 14
The magistrates will enjoy full independence in the exercise of their functions, even from their own countries, and will exercise their responsibilities with impartiality.

Article 15
The magistrates cannot engage in other professional activities, remunerated or unremunerated, except those of an academic nature. The magistrates will abstain from any action that is incompatible with the character and dignity of the post.

Article 16
The Court will have a president and a vice president whose terms will be one year. The presidency will be held successively by the magistrates in alphabetical order according to the names of their respective counties. The vice president will be elected by the Court in accordance with the regulations. He must always be a different nationality from the Court president.

Article 17
In case of the president's temporary absence, the presidency will be held by the vice president. If the absence is final, the vice president will hold the post for the rest of his predecessor's term.

Article 18
The president will be the Court's representative. The vice president will be the Court's representative in the case mentioned in the previous article. In the absence of both, the representation can be delegated to another magistrate.

Article 19
The Court will appoint a secretary general and can appoint other necessary officials who must pledge strict confidence regarding the cases discussed at this court.

Article 20
The requirements for the secretary general and the other officials will be established in the regulations.

Article 21
The Court magistrates and the secretary general will reside in the Court's base country.
The Court magistrates are obligated to attend and remain at meetings. Each magistrate must inform the Court president or whoever takes his place if he cannot attend a meeting.

Chapter II

Competence and Other Authorities

Article 22
The authority of the Court will be:
a. To learn, at the request of any state member, the controversies that appear between them. This excludes border, territorial, or maritime disputes. To settle the latter, the request of all parties concerned is required.
Prior to this, the corresponding foreign ministries should try to reach an understanding which will not undermine their ability to seek an understanding at any point in the proceedings.

b. To learn the actions to declare void and not fulfill the agreements of organizations that are part of the Central American Integration System.

c. To learn, at the request of any interested party, about the legal, regulatory, administrative, and any other provisions issued by a state, when they affect agreements, treaties, and any other norm of the law of Central American integration or the accords or resolutions by its organs or bodies.

d. To learn and issue a ruling, if it deems it convenient, as an arbitrator in the affairs that the parties had requested as a competent court. It will also be able to decide, learn, and resolve an ex aequo et bono dispute, if the interested parties agree.

e. Act as a Permanent Consultative Tribunal of the Supreme Court of Justices of the states to illustrate them.

f. Act as a consultative organ of the organizations and organs of the Central American Integration System in interpreting and implementing the "Tegucigalpa Protocol of Reforms to the Charter of the Organization of Central American States" and the complementary instruments and actions stemming from the same.

g. Learn and resolve, at the request of the affected party, the conflicts that may arise between the branches and basic state organs, and when in fact judicial rulings are not respected.

h. Learn about the concerns submitted directly or individually by any affected party on the agreements of the organs or organizations of the Central American Integration System.

i. Learn about the disputes or differences between a Central American state and an out-of-the-region state, when they agree to submit it to the Court.

j. To conduct comparative studies of Central American laws in order to standardize them and prepare uniform draft bills to carry out the juridical integration of Central America.

This task will be conducted directly or through institutes or specialized organizations, such as the Central American Judicial Council or the Central American Institute of Integration Law.

k. Learn in last appeal of the administrative resolutions issued by Sica organs or organizations that directly affect a staff member and whose reinstatement has been denied.

l. Resolve all pretrial consultations requested by any judge or tribunal dealing with a case pending a ruling, aimed at obtaining the application or uniform interpretation of norms that make up Sica's legal procedures created by the "Tegucigalpa Protocol," its complementary instruments, or acts derived from it.

Article 23

The states may consult the Court on the interpretation of any current international treaty or convention; also on conflicts to do with the treaties themselves, or with each state's domestic laws.

Article 24

The consultations dealt with by the Court on this statute, orders, and rules, to do with Sica, will be obligatory for member states.

Article 25

The Court's authority does not cover human rights. This topic is dealt with exclusively by the International Court of Human Rights.

Article 26

The states are obliged to give the Court all the necessary facilities to adequately comply with its work.

Article 27

The Court and its magistrates shall enjoy international immunity in all member states and the inviolability of their files and official correspondence and everything to do with civil and criminal jurisdictions under the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations.

Article 28

The Court will have legal standing and it will enjoy privileges and immunities in all member states as a Sica organ and its independent work will be guaranteed. The magistrates, the Court's secretary general, and officials designated by the Court as international, will enjoy immunity and privileges afforded to their post. Magistrates will have the rank of ambassadors and the remaining officials will have ranks established by common agreement with the Court and the host country.

Article 29

The magistrates are fully exonerated of responsibility for the acts they commit and opinions they give while complying with their official work and will continue to enjoy this exoneration after their term expires.

Article 30

According to the previously established norms, the Court is empowered to determine its authority in each specific case, interpreting treaties and agreements pertaining to the disputed affair, and applying Integration and International Law principles.

Article 31

Courts may take pre-trial or preventive measures it considers necessary to safeguard the parties' rights from the moment a claim is accepted against one or more Sica states, organs, or organizations, until there is a definite ruling. To this end the Court, at the request of either side, may decide how the parties should remain to ensure that the case is not worsened and that things remain in the same state until a ruling is issued.

Article 32

Evidence must be submitted according to the respective statutes. The Court may demand or accept whatever evidence it deems necessary to declare, establish, or execute the rights the parties have or demand.

Article 33
The Court's communication for the reception of any evidence does not need confirmation, approval, or exequatur for executing, and must be carried out by officials or judicial or administrative authorities to whom the Court sends the request.

Article 34
Documents from any country, whatever they may be, presented as evidence in trial, will only need to be authenticated in their place of origin by the proper authorities or by a Notary Public.
The trials are to be held on any of the territories of the states according to the procedural rules issued by the Court.

Chapter III

Sentence and Compliance

Article 35
The Court will review as a whole the evidence presented, and when announcing its decision will explain the criteria used to evaluate the case.

Article 36
All the decisions made by the Court and its courtrooms or chambers will be based on favorable votes from at least the absolute majority of the members. The dissident or concurring magistrate or magistrates will have a right to state their opinion.
The resolution will be explanatory (motivada), will mention the names of the issuing magistrates, and will include their signatures, except when not possible for justified reasons.

Article 37
The decision will resolve each one of the points in the lawsuit and its compliance will be compulsory only for the parties involved in the case.

Article 38
The decision will be final and unappealable; the Court, however, on its own initiative or at the request of one of the parties can clarify or expand the resolution within a period of 30 days following notification.

Article 39
The resolutions, decisions, or final sentences issued by the Court will admit no recourse and will be followed by the States, institutions, or organizations within the Central American Integration System, as well as natural or legal persons. They will be implemented as any resolution, decision, or sentence issued by a national court in the respective State, for which a certification issued by the secretary general of the Court will suffice. In case of noncompliance with the decisions or resolutions by a State, the Court will inform the other States in order to ensure compliance through pertinent means.

Article 40
The Court cannot refuse to resolve a case within its jurisdiction alleging silence or lack of clarity in the agreements or treaties invoked as applicable.

Chapter IV

General and Transitory Rules, Duration

Article 41
The States will provide equal contributions to cover the Court's general budget.

Article 42
Each state's budget will include a special allocation for the Court's budget. Each state will send its contribution to the Court within three months prior to the beginning of a calendar year.

Article 43
In order to issue or reform the regulations and procedures they must be approved by the majority of the magistrates. Those modifications will not be retroactive.

Article 44
Each Court magistrate will earn a salary and will be entitled to an expense account, travel expenses, as well as a daily expense allowance. The magistrate that has served his term will receive a retirement pension equal to an amount and subject to the conditions established by the Court. [sentence as published]

Article 45
As long as the Court has not been installed, the application, interpretation, and execution of the dispositions contained in the current statute will fall under the responsibility of the Central American Judicial Council which is made up of the presidents of the Supreme Court of Justice of each state. It will also be the responsibility of the Central American Judicial Council to take the necessary measures, as well as any effort, to ensure the rapid installation and proper operation of the Court.

Article 46
The Central American Judicial Council, in addition to the responsibilities previously mentioned, will also be responsible for setting the establishment and initial operation date of the Central American Court of Justice; preparing draft resolutions for the court's regulations, procedure ordinances, as well as budgets; and will determine the initial number of magistrates to form the court.

Article 47
Before the Court begins its operations, the states will furnish said court with its own financial resources in such a way as to enable it to adequately undertake its delicate and extremely important duties.

Article 48
This statute does not admit any reservations. It will have an indefinite duration and will enter into effect eight

days after the date the states that have ratified the Tegucigalpa Protocol to the Charter of the Organization of Central American States (ODECA), that constitutes the "Central American Integration System", have made the corresponding deposit, in accordance to what has beer established in Article 36 of the aforementioned protocol. The states, that on the date the court comes into effect have not yet ratified the aforementioned protocol, will be allowed to integrate with the Court once they have ratified and surrendered the respective instruments in the form required by the same.

In witness whereof the Central American presidents sign the present statute in six original forms in Panama City, Republic of Panama, in six original copies, on the 10th day of the month of December of the year nineteen ninety two (1992).

[Signed] Rafael A. Calderon Fournier, president of the Republic of Costa Rica
Alfredo F. Cristiani Burkard, president of the Republic of El Salvador
Jorge Serrano Elias, president of the Republic of Guatemala
Rafael L. Callejas Romero, president of the Republic of Honduras
Violeta Barrios de Chamorro, president of the Republic of Nicaragua
Guilermo Endara Galimany, president of the Republic of Panama
Edgar Cervantes Villalta, president of the Supreme Court of Justice of Costa Rica
Juan Jose Rodil Peralta, president of the Supreme Court of Justice of Guatemala
Orlando Trejos Somarriba, president of the Supreme Court of Justice of Nicaragua
Gabriel Mauricio Gutierrez, president of the Supreme Court of Justice of El Salvador
Orlando Lozano Martinez, president of the Supreme Court of Justice of Honduras
Carlos Lucas Lopez Tejada, president of the Supreme Court of Justice of Panama

Cuba

Castro Urges 'Discretion' on Scientific Advances

FL1612142492 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 16 Dec 92

[Text] The analysis of solutions in the food program, biotechnology, and the pharmaceutical industry were the main issues discussed by the 1,200 participants in the 7th National Spare Parts, Equipment, and Advanced Technology Forum which is scheduled to conclude tonight with a presentation of awards for the most outstanding projects.

Commander in Chief Fidel Castro stressed, in one of his contributions to the discussion, the discretion that should be maintained regarding scientific accomplishments that in other countries are highly guarded. The first secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba and president of the Councils of State and Ministers also stressed the merit of the electromedicine workshops in repairing medical equipment and instruments.

Regarding the production and marketing of the Cuban medicine PPG, Fidel said:

[Begin Castro recording] Beginning in January, it will be sold by prescription instead of by medical certificates. In other words, it is going to be available at all pharmacies throughout Cuba. PPG flushes out the arteries; it is extremely important. We already have the necessary capability to market it. I estimate that PPG will be used by at least 1 million people. I think that, after a certain age, it is a preventive medicine. There is no need to wait until the cholesterol levels are high or problems arise. One of those Gamma chambers was acquired precisely to study how PPG flushes out the cerebral arteries. We are going to have it available now. Previously, its distribution was highly limited. [end recording]

Raul Castro, Other Officials Tour Isle of Youth

FL1612025092 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0100 GMT 16 Dec 92

[Text] Army General Raul Castro, the minister of the Revolutionary Armed Forces [FAR], has begun an extensive tour of the Isle of Youth Special Municipality, territory defended by the Western Army, (?accompanied by Commander of the Revolution) Juan Almeida Bosque and Division General Leopoldo Cintra Frias, both of whom are Politburo members. At the municipal Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] headquarters on the Isle of Youth, PCC Municipal First Secretary Emilio Gonzalez Farrat briefed the FAR minister and those accompanying him on the residents' work, the economic and social achievements they have obtained in the midst of the special period, the difficulties they are coping with, and the masses' initiatives in finding solutions.

Colonel Jorge Alvarez, the chief of the municipal general staff, provided information about the municipality's defense preparations. More than 50,000 men and women on the Isle of Youth—95 percent of those able to bear arms—are members of the Territorial Troops Militia, the Production and Defense Brigades, and the regular FAR reserves. The preparation of the theater of military operations is another task undertaken by the residents, in addition to combat training. This year, the efforts of thousands of men and women have made it possible to fulfill the plan for constructing civil defense tunnels. What has been achieved in 1992 is double what was done in 1991. Based on this year's results, Col. Alvarez confirmed the commitment made to the FAR minister and Div. Gen. Cintra Frias, who is the chief of the Western Army, to achieve complete food self-sufficiency for the Armed Forces on the Isle of Youth next year.

The presentation by the municipal PCC first secretary stressed that there are 326 doctors in the municipality now, in contrast to the four there were in 1959. In four years, 2,140 housing units have been built, and 99 percent of the households have electricity. Emilio Gonzalez gave a few figures that may give a view of what the Isle of Youth is at present. For example, this year 107,000 tons of citrus fruit will be harvested. By the end of 1992, 225 pounds per capita of tubers and 95 pounds per capita of vegetables should have been delivered to the populace, and the lobster catching plan has almost been exceeded.

The PCC official stressed that the important part of all this is that it has been done through an extraordinary effort by the residents of the Isle of Youth. They have managed to reduce the effects of the shortage of fuel and other resources and continue to develop the island's economy. In this regard, he mentioned the people's councils, which have solved people's problems locally, and the inventions at production centers.

Later, the FAR minister visited the fields of the miscellaneous crops enterprise, which has (?199) caballerias [words indistinct] with irrigation. The island is self-sufficient in biological control means for the fields, and the production of compost for fertilization has reached 345 tons this year. The FAR minister insisted it was necessary for the island to produce the amount of grains it needs to be self-sufficient, as well as to reach the figure of 1,000 ox teams for 1993.

During another part of his tour, Raul visited a youth recreation center, which has already been partially completed. There, he expressed interest in how the center will operate when it is completely finished and how it can really contribute to the recreation of the island's population, which is predominantly young.

The FAR minister showed special interest during his tour of the citrus processing plant, which has about 500 workers and processes grapefruit for export, produces juice concentrates, and recently began to obtain peel for pectin [words indistinct]. There, Raul heard details about the Brazilian equipment which makes it possible.

at full capacity, to produce one ton per hour of peel for pectin, and the plant's initiatives for producing grapefruit candy and tomato sauce in bulk for the public.

The first day of the FAR minister's tour concluded with a visit to the marble factory, which has the capacity to process 80,000 square meters of tiles for export and tourism projects in this country. Throughout the tour, quite a few memories and anecdotes came up about the fateful days when Fidel, Raul, Almeida, and other attackers of the Moncada Barracks felt the rigors of the tyranny in the Model Prison of sorry fame, which has now been turned into a Pioneers' center as a symbol of the triumph of the ideas [words indistinct] revolutionaries [words indistinct] from Jose Marti to Pablo de la Torriente Bravo and Fidel Castro.

Military Delegation Ends Six-Day Visit To Bolivia

FL1612025192 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 16 Dec 92

[Text] The Cuban military delegation that visited Bolivia departed today to return to Cuba. The delegation, which remained in Bolivia for six days, is made up of 41 people, most of whom are students of the National Defense College, and is headed by Brigadier General Leonardo Andollo. The Cuban soldiers arrived in La Paz on 8 December. Since their arrival, they had been immersed in an intense schedule of meetings and interviews with high ranking Bolivian military officers as well as having a lengthy meeting with Bolivian President Jaime Paz Zamora.

On that occasion, Paz Zamora told the Cuban soldiers that despite political differences, he rejected any offense against Cuba's national sovereignty and dignity. For his part, Andollo recognized the value of the Bolivian gesture of inviting the Cuban soldiers at a time when the United States of America is redoubling its efforts to isolate and destroy Cuba. The local media noted the irritation that the visit caused at the U.S. Embassy, to the point that, according to newspaper reports, its diplomats did not attend official functions while the Cuban military delegation was in Bolivia.

Brazilian Deputies Meet With Juan Escalona Reguera

FL1612000292 Havana Cuba Vision Network in Spanish 2320 GMT 15 Dec 92

[Text] Federal deputies from three Brazilian states met today with Juan Escalona Reguera, the president of the National Assembly of the People's Government [ANPP]. Escalona began by telling the Brazilian federal deputies that ANPP Vice President Zoila Benitez had just returned from that country, where the headquarters of the Latin American Parliament was established in Sao Paulo. The Parliament had been created several years ago but had not had a permanent headquarters.

Referring to Cuba's economic problems, Escalona spoke to them about the prospects concerning oil exploration in this country, among other programs. The Brazilian federal deputies expressed their satisfaction at the position taken by the Cuban Government and people in the face of U.S. pressures. When they received the medal the ANPP gives to friends who visit us, they expressed great affection for our people.

'Social Prevention' Commission Holds Meeting

FL1412203792 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 4 Dec 92

[Text] The national meeting of the Social Prevention and Attention Commissions began today in Villa Clara Province. After assessing at length the work done by each of the nation's provinces, it was decided to hold this meeting here in Villa Clara because of the positive results that have been obtained here. Despite limitations, the Villa Clara Province Social Prevention Commission has done significant work in preventing crime by increasing its efforts in urban communities and rural areas. In this province, it is important to fill the population's free time, especially the free time of young adults and children. People here are encouraged to build and set up rustic buildings and tools, as well to hold traditional recreational activites at schools and within communities.

The main topic to be discussed during this national meeting on crime prevention is precisely the search for options to fill the people's free time, particularly that of young people. According to the agenda, the people attending today's meeting will visit Caibarien, Placetas, and Camajuani Municipalities; and tomorrow's plenary session will analyze the report on the work done by the various provinces, based on the results obtained from a recent commission study of the population's recreational activities and leisure time.

Improved Distribution of Liquid Gas Projected

FL1512135092 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 15 Dec 92

[Text] As part of the measures taken in Havana to improve liquid gas distribution, it is projected that by 25 December, all delays will be eliminated for collective consumers of this domestic fuel. Engineer Carlos Triana, the general director of Cuba-Petroleo, reported that the plan also foresees that by the end of December, the current 60-day delay will be reduced by a month for individual consumers in Havana City Province. Triana pointed out that, presently, approximately 160 tons are distributed daily in the capital, which meets the demand of the province. He said that for the last three months, the Nico Lopez refinery has been the only refinery producing liquid gas for the whole country. Triana added that during November, the factory averaged between 230 and 235 tons per day.

After pointing out that financial difficulties made it impossible for Cuba to import raw materials for liquid gas production, he added that a new shipment is

expected in the next few days. This will make it possible to improve the distribution of this domestic fuel. Comrade Carlos Triana also added that Cuba has acquired approximately 70 tons of special steel for Matanzas' Noel Fernandez factory to repair a large number of broken liquid gas tanks.

Rice Husks Used To Reduce Fuel Consumption

FL1612143592 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1255 GMT 16 Dec 92

[Text] The Sur de Jibaro Rice Complex, in Sancti Spiritus, has reduced fuel consumption by approximately 800 tons of diesel by drying rice using rice husks, based on an invention of the technicians from this enterprise. Engineer Pedro Ramos' contribution allows the elimination of traditional fuel at this step, which is the most wasteful of the entire agroindustrial rice process.

Currently, 10 furnaces adapted to burn rice husks are in operation and others are close to completion. Since 2 September, expenditures for oil have been zero because of this concept. The construction of the furnaces was carried out using local resources or resources available in the province at a reduced cost; in addition, feeding the rice husks is done manually.

Enterprises in Granma and Camaguey Provinces are interested in this technology, which could contribute to saving the country thousands of tons of fuel with investments made at all rice complexes. The Sancti Spiritus Sur de Jibaro Enterprise contributes 25 percent of the rice harvested nationwide and industrially processes the rice at several driers and mills.

* Official Guide to Understanding Electoral Law

93CA0029A Havana JUVENTUD REBELDE in Spanish 1 Nov 92 pp 6-7

[Article by Esteban Ramirez and Jose A. Rodriguez, followed by commentary by Arleen Rodriguez Derivet: "What Will Elections Be Like?"]

[Text] Every five years there will be general elections for delegates and deputies to the municipal, provincial, and national assemblies. And every two and a half years by-elections will be held solely to elect delegates to the municipal assemblies.

In the case of general elections, the first round of voting will result in the election of delegates from the constituencies. Those delegates will be elected from among candidates nominated previously by the people in voters assemblies. There can never be fewer than two candidates. A second round of voting will take place within 10 days in those constituencies in which no candidate receives more than 50 percent of the vote or in which there is a tie between two or more candidates.

If the second round results in a tie, successive elections will be held until one of the candidates receives the most votes.

Following the installation of the municipal assemblies, which are the bodies responsible for nominating candidates, and on the day determined by the Council of State, voters will elect, by direct and secret ballot and all on the same day, delegates to the provincial assemblies and deputies for each municipality.

In elections for delegates to the municipal assemblies, the voter must vote for a single candidate, and the candidate elected will be the one receiving more than half the number of valid ballots cast in that constituency.

In elections for delegates to the provincial assemblies and deputies in the National Assembly, the voter may vote for as many candidates as are listed on the respective ballots, for some of them, or for none of them. Those receiving more than half the number of valid ballots cast in the respective municipality or electoral district will be considered elected.

If for some reason vacancies occur in the provincial assemblies or the National Assembly, the Council of State may either leave those seats vacant until the next elections, designate the appropriate municipal assembly an electoral college for the purpose of electing the respective delegate or deputy, or call new elections.

Candidate Commissions

These commissions are responsible for drawing up and submitting lists of proposed candidates for delegate to the provincial assemblies and deputy in the National Assembly and for filling the positions elected by those assemblies and the municipal assemblies.

Candidate commissions will be established at the national, provincial, and municipal levels, and they will consist of representatives of the CTC [Cuban Workers Federation]—who will preside over them at every level—and of the CDR's [Committees for the Defense of the Revolution], the FMC [Federation of Cuban Women], the ANAP [National Association of Small Farmers], the FEU [Federation of University Students], and the FEEM [Federation of Secondary School Students].

If any of their members are chosen as precandidates [candidates for nomination], those members must be replaced immediately by the mass organizations to which they belong.

The national commission is to prepare and submit to the municipal assemblies lists of precandidates for deputy. It will also submit to the deputies its nominees for president, vice president, and secretary of the National Assembly and for president, first vice president, vice presidents, secretary, and other officers of the Council of State.

For their part, the provincial commissions prepare and submit to their municipal counterparts lists of precandidates for delegate to the respective provincial assembly.

notify the national commission of their choice of precandidates for deputy, and submit to the delegates their nominees for election as president and vice president of the provincial assembly.

Before receiving lists of precandidates from its provincial and national counterparts, each municipal commission will submit its list of precandidates for delegate to the provincial assembly and National Assembly. It will choose those precandidates from among the members of the municipal assembly itself and from among other citizens who are not delegates. In both cases, the number selected from among members of the municipal assembly cannot exceed 50 percent of the total number of precandidates.

Only those bodies have the extremely important task of presenting the delegates to the municipal assemblies with proposed candidates for delegate and deputy to the provincial assembly and the National Assembly respectively. In addition, each one prepares a proposed list of candidates for president and vice president of the municipal assembly.

In the case of provincial and municipal assemblies, the post of secretary is not an elected position, as it was previously. From now on, the secretary will be an official appointed by those assemblies. The secretary need not be a delegate.

Active and Passive Suffrage

Voting is free, equal, and secret, and every voter is entitled to one vote, according to the law.

Each citizen's electoral rights include electing and being elected, voting in referendums that are held, being enrolled on the Voters Register of the municipality in which he or she lives, attending the balloting by the electoral colleges, participating in the meeting for nominating candidates for delegate to the municipal assembly for his or her constituency, and filing legally acceptable complaints with the appropriate jurisdictional authorities to ensure the defense of his or her electoral rights.

To exercise active suffrage (that is, to elect), a voter must be at least 16 years of age, have been a permanent resident of the country for at least two years preceding the election, show the electoral college an identity card or an identification document issued by the armed institutes to which he or she belongs, and be eligible to exercise his or her voting rights as provided by the Constitution and by law.

All Cubans in full possession of their political rights who have been permanent residents for at least five years preceding the election may be elected (passive suffrage).

In the case of both active and passive suffrage, individuals declared mentally incompetent by the courts, those serving prison sentences (including individuals on probation), those serving a subsidiary prison sentence, and those who have been deprived of their political rights for a period established by the courts as accessory punishment effective upon completion of their principal punishment are ineligible both to vote and to be elected.

To be elected delegate to a municipal assembly, an individual must be at least 16 years old, be domiciled in an electoral constituency of the municipality in question, and have been chosen as a candidate.

In the case of provincial elections, a candidate must be a resident of the territory in question and have been previously chosen as a candidate by a municipal assembly in the province in question.

To be elected deputy, an individual must be at least 18 years of age and have been chosen as a candidate by a municipal assembly.

To be chosen president or vice president of the respective organs and also secretary in the case of the National Assembly, it is necessary to have been previously elected delegate or deputy, as appropriate, and to be a member of the Council of State, one must have been elected deputy.

Deputies and delegates to the provincial assemblies are elected for a term of five years; delegates to municipal assemblies are elected for two and a half years.

Once elected, individuals may be removed from their seats at any time in the manner, for the reasons, and according to the procedures stipulated by law.

Nomination

All voters participating in the nominating assemblies—which will now be headed by the constituency electoral commissions instead of the two voters elected by the assemblies themselves—may nominate candidates for delegate to the municipal assembly. The one elected will be the one receiving the most votes.

As was true already, candidates will be nominated by area, and each area will be able to nominate only one candidate, although several areas can join together and nominate a single candidate.

Nominations for candidates for delegate to the provincial assembly or for deputy are made by the delegates elected to the municipal assemblies and by individuals who, although not so elected, are chosen by the municipal and provincial candidate commissions and, in the case of deputies only, by the National Candidate Commission.

Responsibility for choosing precandidates for deputy in the National Assembly rests with the National Candidate Commission, and that for choosing precandidates for delegate to the provincial assembly rests with the provincial candidate commissions, which will send those nominations to the municipal candidate commissions for submission to the respective municipal assemblies, the latter being responsible for nominating the actual candidates.

The law stipulates that in preparing their lists of precandidates, the national and provincial commissions are to take into account proposals by the municipal commissions and those that they themselves prepare. They may also hear the opinions of as many institutions, organizations, and work centers as they consider appropriate and of the rank-and-file delegates.

This involves not a cold and oversimplified process but one which will also lead the mass organizations to hold plenary meetings and assemblies for expressing an opinion and selecting precandidates who, by the force of things, do not have to be members or officers of those organizations and who will form the pool from which the candidate commissions will choose.

According to the law, the right to choose candidates for delegate to the provincial assembly and for deputy belongs solely to the municipal assemblies, which may reject any or all of the proposed candidates, in which case the candidate commission will suggest another candidate or other candidates.

At least 45 days before the date of the election, every municipal assembly will nominate a number of candidates for delegate to the provincial assembly and for deputy equal to the number that the municipality is entitled to elect, and those will be the ones listed on the ballot. In both cases, half the candidates are to be selected from among the existing delegates to the municipal assembly itself.

In the municipal assembly, voting to nominate candidates will be by show of hands, and the nominees will be those receiving more than half the votes of the delegates present. If anyone does not receive more than half the votes, the candidate commission will submit another name. In municipalities that are divided into districts, the assembly will nominate candidates for each district separately.

Once nominated, candidates may participate jointly in activities, conferences, and visits to work centers and exchange opinions with the workers. This will enable the latter to get to know them personally and to ask them questions to learn more about them.

Election propaganda will consist of biographies and photographs of the candidates.

Number of Delegates To Be Elected

Delegates to the municipal assemblies are elected on the basis of one for each constituency, and the number of constituencies is based on the number of inhabitants in the municipality, but there will never be less than 30 constituencies.

When necessary, special constituencies may be established for persons residing permanently in military units or in groups which for labor reasons must spend prolonged periods away from their domiciles and, in exceptional cases, persons in boarding schools.

Delegates to provincial assemblies are elected by direct vote of the voters in the municipalities for which they are nominated. The number of delegates to those assemblies must be at least 75.

The law stipulates that in provinces with more than 750,000 inhabitants, one delegate will be elected for every 10,000 inhabitants or fraction exceeding 5,000 in each municipality.

In provinces with fewer than 750,000 inhabitants, the number of residents to be represented by each delegate will be determined by dividing the population of the province by 75, and the number of delegates to be elected to the provincial assembly by each municipality will be determined by dividing the population of the municipality by the quotient thus obtained.

Territories with more than 1.5 million inhabitants will elect one delegate for every 15,000 inhabitants or fraction exceeding 7,500 in each municipality.

In municipalities with fewer than 15,000 inhabitants, a minimum of two delegates to the provincial assembly will be elected.

The National Assembly will consist of one deputy for every 20,000 inhabitants or fraction exceeding 10,000 in each municipality. In municipalities with a population of 30,000 or less, a minimum of two deputies will be elected.

Based on the population as of the end of last June, the National Assembly will consist of over 580 deputies this time, compared to the 510 who were elected in 1986. The increase is due partly to the increase in population and partly to the stipulation that each municipality must have at least two deputies.

To facilitate the organization of elections in municipalities with more than 100,000 inhabitants, electoral districts may be established for the election of delegates to the provincial assembly and deputies. Those districts must have no fewer than 50,000 inhabitants each.

Electoral Commissions

Electoral commissions exist at the national, provincial, municipal, district, constituency, and special levels. Their purpose is to organize, direct, and validate elections, and the new law adds to their duties.

In addition to their traditional duties, electoral commissions at the constituency level will now be responsible for heading up the nominating assemblies at which candidates for delegate to the provincial assembly are chosen, while the municipal, provincial, and national nominating commissions will be in charge of meetings for setting up assemblies at those levels, a function formerly performed by the age boards and the credentials committees.

As was being done already, enrollment in the Voters Register will be automatic based on information in the CDR Address Registers, and it will still be possible for a

voter who is not on the Voters Register to register, even on election day, with the election board for the [electoral] college corresponding to his or her domicile.

One special feature of our election process is that it does not involve participation by state officials appointed specifically for that purpose. Instead, it is considered that 250,000 people living in the neighborhoods themselves, as members of the electoral commissions and boards and so on, are the ones who will guarantee the success of the elections.

Installation of Assemblies

A municipal people's assembly meets within 21 days following the election of all its members. At that meeting, those elected will be sworn in and will elect, by secret ballot, the president and vice president of their assembly.

A provincial assembly meets within 15 days following the election of its members. At that same meeting, the members will elect their president and vice president, also by secret ballot.

For its part, the National Assembly meets within a period of 45 days following its election. At that first session, as at the first session held by each municipal and provincial assembly, more than 50 percent of the elected members must be present.

The list of nominations for president, vice president, and secretary of the National Assembly is submitted to the delegates by the president of the National Candidate Commission.

As is true in the municipal and provincial assemblies, the individuals on that list can be replaced only by a majority vote.

If the assembly rejects any of them, the candidate commission will suggest someone else.

At all levels, those receiving more than 50 percent of the valid ballots cast are considered elected.

Temporary Provisions

One of the temporary provisions in the new Electoral Law stipulates that within 90 days following the date on which this law takes effect, the Executive Committee of the Council of Ministers will issue rules governing the duties and makeup of the administrative organs that will replace the executive committees of the provincial and municipal assemblies and take charge temporarily pending promulgation of the law regulating the organization and operation of the local organs of people's government.

The second provision stipulates that the current delegates to the municipal and provincial assemblies and the current deputies in the National People's Assembly will retain their seats until the people elected to those seats are sworn in.

Another temporary provision states that in the first elections held after this law takes effect, the Council of State or the National Electoral Commission, as appropriate, may alter the periods and deadlines for calling elections, appointing the National Electoral Commission, setting up voters registers, and carrying out other formalities and procedures.

Among Cubans

We have a new Electoral Law. It entitles us to vote in direct and secret elections for government representatives not only in municipal elections but in those at the provincial and national levels. In other words, our civic responsibility is increasing and the content of our democracy is growing.

I say "growing" very deliberately because our democracy is not new like the Electoral Law. Actually, it can be said that it is as old as the Revolution if one accepts Pericles' definition (government of the minority by the majority), which was quoted by Jorge Enrique Mendoza at the last session of the National Assembly, and it can be said that within the concepts in use (election and voting), it is a little younger than the Revolution but just as adult as the people's governments.

There is no doubt that the day in 1976 when Fidel Castro suggested that the masses in their communities should be the ones to nominate and elect the delegates to municipal assemblies marked the start of a practice with no known precedent and one that shatters any argument questioning the democratic essence of our election process. On that day, in my modest opinion, we freed ourselves of the deceitful mechanisms of party politics that had been transmitted to us like a devouring virus from other latitudes and eras.

For the first time in history, those nominating candidates were not political parties or power groups; instead, the candidates were nominated by the masses in an open and honest process which in recent years has caused the natural talent of the people to emerge all the way up to the highest levels of government.

Perhaps because of the habit created by that very practice, there are those today who do not understand that candidates for provincial delegate and for deputy in the National Assembly should not be selected by that formula but by a system of candidate commissions, made up of representatives of mass organizations, that will submit their nominees to the municipal assemblies before the general elections.

And although there are many arguments refuting such doubts, I personally would prefer to stick to the one dictated to me by the most elementary logic. What guarantee would there be of being elected with over 50 percent of the possible votes if spontaneous and completely free candidacies were permitted, with every citizen nominating the one he or she liked the most?

From what I understand of the mechanisms of this complex process which we are initiating with unparalleled boldness in the most difficult year of the Revolution, the candidate commissions will do what in other countries is done by political parties and power groups: look for the candidates that can best represent their interests. What is the difference? It is that here the group doing the choosing is as heterogeneous as society itself: the interests of all the citizens are represented, with the result that it shares the same basic objective, which is to guarantee that the best talent is available to the government from its foundation to its superstructure.

But even so, the people's decision concerning the proposals is not evaded, quite the contrary. Considering that at least 50 percent of the provincial assemblies and of the National Assembly consists of rank-and-file delegates, is it not true that by nominating and electing our representatives in the constituencies, we are in fact contributing a possible deputy? And this is in addition to the consultations that the candidate commissions will hold with the masses by allowing the latter to decide concerning the value of the possible candidates.

That is why I began by mentioning our increased civic responsibility. The candidate commissions, which, when all is said and done, are simply an extension of ourselves—every Cuban belongs to at least one of the six mass organizations represented on those commissions—will also be responsible for seeing that all of us voters are very familiar with the nominees, to the benefit of none and to the detriment of none, by simply informing us of each individual's personal merits and his commitment to the Revolution. That latter aspect strikes me as essential in the circumstances currently being experienced by our country.

That is how transparent our elections will be, although—would you believe it?—it can be expected in advance that they are not going to "satisfy expectations" on the part of certain distant observers who are programmed only to accept negative results when the thing being voted on is a revolutionary process. But there is no cause for concern. Those people are not entitled to elect anyone or to vote here.

Inter-Caribbean Affairs

Caricom Bureau of Prime Ministers Inaugurated

FL1512234592 Bridgetown CANA in English 2147 GMT 15 Dec 92

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Dec 15, CANA—Caribbean Community (Caricom) secretary general, Edwin Carrington, says the region has high hopes in the existence, performance, and survival of the Caricom Bureau of Prime Ministers. Carrington, speaking at the inaugural meeting of the six-week-old Bureau at the Caricom Secretariat Georgetown headquarters Tuesday, said the region was confident as it heralded the beginning of a new era in Caribbean intergation.

"We are confident, Mr. Chairman, that this is the beginning of a new era in Caribbean integration. We have subscribed to the view that integration, if it is to be effective in the region, must find its place on the agenda of the highest authority in our region," Carrington said at the formal opening ceremony. "That day," he said, "has come to pass. We look forward, Mr. Chairman, to serving through the bureau, the institutions of the Community with all the capacity at our command." Carrington, also the bureau's chief executive officer, said the body was determined to ensure that the venture on which Caribbean people had embarked, took them safely to the shores of a successful and viable Caribbean Community.

Current Caricom chairman, Trinidad and Tobago Prime Minister Patrick Manning, said the eyes of the region and beyond were focused on the bureau as it seeks to execute its mandate.

"Our session here in Georgetown has to be seen as a working session that has the opportunity to make landmark decisions and to put the arrangements in place that will set Caribbean integration on a sounder footing consistent with the aspirations of the heads (of government) as we considered these matters," Manning said in opening remarks.

"It is for us to decide. I have no doubt that we will succeed, but what it does mean is that we have a lot of work ahead of us over the next two days, and I am quite confident that we are equal to the task," Manning said.

Immediate past Caricom chairman, St. Kitts/Nevis Prime Minister Dr. Kennedy Simmonds, said he was "seized" with the importance of the "historic nature" of the inaugural meeting. He acknowledged the region is facing critical times, but said the bureau should not be seen as the "answer and panacea for all ills." But, he said, it did have an important opportunity and responsibility to set clear directions to strive and ensure implementation and chart a new course for the Caribbean Community.

Dr Simmonds said: "As we seek to give this sort of sense of direction, we must recognise that we do it in the name of the Community as a whole and therefore we will depend not only on our own interest, but on the wisdom and support of all of the member countries...."

Incoming Caricom chairman, Bahamas Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham, acknowledged the bureau's inaugural meeting was being convened at a time of when many "cynics" had already concluded that it was bound to fail.

"We shall certainly do our utmost to acquit ourselves, having taken the position in the first place that this is the more effective route from our point of view," the Bahamas prime minister told senior Caricom officials. He said: "We shall seek to determine the extent to which the secretariat needs to be strengthened and added to, and we will certainly give this effort our best shot to

ensure that decisions of the Caricom heads are effectively carried out, and that where they cannot be carried out, we provide the answers for the public in the Caribbean at the earliest opportunity." The bureau, agreed on by regional heads at their inter-sessional meeting in Trinidad in October, is comprised of the three prime ministers and Carrington.

The situation in Haiti, 205 of the recommendations of the West Indian Commission [WIC], and decisions taken by heads of government over the last seven years are included on the agenda. Caricom heads had studied the first 20 of 220 WIC recommendations at their official Heads of Government Summit in Trinidad and Tobago in July.

Cayman Islands

Cuban Refugees Stage Hunger Strike in Prison

FL1512231192 Bridgetown CANA in English 2016 GMT 15 Dec 92

[Text] George Town, Grand Cayman, Dec 15, CANA—Eight Cuban refugees who have been in the territorial prison for the past three months have gone on a hunger strike. They launched the strike last Friday, in protest over their "detention." The eight Cubans, including one woman, have been at the prison since their arrival in the Cayman Islands last August, in a bid to reach the United States.

While reporters have not been allowed to talk directly with the hunger stikers, other refugees who are not "in detention" say the Cubans in prison are protesting that they have not been charged or convicted of a crime and should not be treated as convicted criminals.

The Cayman Islands Government routinely sends single, male refugees to Northward Prison as "immigration detainees" while placing women, children, and families in government housing. Government officials have declined to give a reason why the one female is also being held in prison. Prison director Dennis Marsden confirmed the hunger strike, but said he believed the refugees would be ending their protest Tuesday afternoon.

"From Friday, eight refugees ... which includes one lady, have not been taking food," said Marsden. They have, however, been taking liquids, he said. Marsden said that following a meeting between the protesters and immigration authorities late Monday afternoon, "the refugees are going to be eating as of tonight."

Chief Secretary Lemuel Hurlston, the government minister for Foreign Affairs and Internal Security, said he met with the refugees and explained the government was doing all it could to process them to the U.S.

Haiti

PNH Head Proposes Nation's Withdrawal From OAS

FL1512181792 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 15 Dec 92

[Excerpts] Dr. Sylvan Jolibois, leader of the Haitian Nationalist Party [PNH], has proposed that Haiti withdraw from the OAS so the leaders of that organization can respect it. Jolibois, who believes the international community should revise its attitude toward Haiti's problems, has added that even the OAS secretary general has said that the embargo on Haiti has no juridical grounds.

[Begin Jolibois recording] The embargo does not have any juridical grounds. It must therefore be lifted. The countries must say their mea culpa. They have made a decision against a little country because they know it is a poor country which is always begging. They have made a decision that they did not have the right to make. They must acknowledge that they did not have the right to make it and then withdraw. [passage omitted] [end recording]

This was Dr. Sylvan Jolibois giving his opinion on how Haiti should make the OAS and United Nations respect it. Mr. Jolibois was reacting to the proposal by the representative of Canada. In a resolution adopted on 13 December, the ministers of foreign affairs of the OAS member countries asked that the entire international community implement the economic sanctions against Haiti. Sunday's resolution managed to pass, but it was fought by representatives of countries such as Mexico and Colombia that said the situation in Haiti is a problem which does not concern any foreign country. [passage omitted]

Government Seals Teachers Training School

FL1512162692 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1145 GMT 15 Dec 92

[Text] The Justice Department affixed seals to the doors of the Teachers Training College. This was done without the knowedge of Professor Gerard Bissainthe, rector, in a statement on 14 December on Radio Metropole. The new rector advocates dialogue in order to solve the problems in the university.

It should be noted that the university's new rector asserted that he asked the Rectorate to contact judicial authorities in order to lift the seals as soon as possible. Bissainthe, who thinks all the resources of exchanges and discussions have not been exhausted, invites the professors and the students of the Teachers Training College to resume courses. However, the new rector asserted he would unilaterally make some imperative decisions if the situation could not be solved through dialogue. For

Gerard Bissainthe, the university's rector, there is no real disagreement between the Education Ministry and the Rectorate.

[Begin Bissainthe recording] I do not believe there is disagreement. It is simply a question of, perhaps, timing, given that I was appointed to this office and I started by saying I would talk first. A divergence might have existed between decisions made before my current attitude. But no divergence exists among National Education higher authorities. [end recording]

Mitchell Presents Budget With Increases, Cuts

FL1612020292 Bridgetown CANA in English 2249 GMT 15 Dec 92

[By Corlita Ollivierre]

[Text] Kingstown, St. Vincent, Dec 15, CANA—St. Vincent and the Grenadines prime minister, James Mitchell, on Tuesday presented a 284 million East Caribbean dollar budget, announcing higher charges as well as tax relief. Mitchell announced a new customs service charge and higher fees associated with citizenship documents. But he also reported he has cutting company taxes and death duties.

The budget is EC10 million dollars (one East Caribbean dollar = 37 U.S. cents) more than the 1992 figure. It comprises EC180 million dollars in recurrent spending and EC103 million on the capital side. The capital budget represents a six percent decrease on the 1992 estimates and would be financed partly by EC12.3 million dollars in external grants and EC44 million dollars in loans. The remainder is coming from local sources, with EC27.5 million dollars in development bonds.

"The capital programme is designed to give support to our diversification efforts," Mitchell told the House of Assembly. ".... Efforts are now being made to provide only for the expenditure which we expect will be incurred durng the year." He said that the EC12.3 million dollars budgeted in grant funds was "a clear indication that the funding from donor agencies (is) not really readily available."

The recurrent budget represents a six percent increase over the 1992 figure, resulting from provisions for the final three percent of a 13-percent salary increase to civil servants, and increased payments on external debt servicing which has moved from EC18.3 million dollars in 1992 to EC21.7 million dollars for the new financial year.

Among the new revenue earning measures announced is a customs service charge of two percent on the cost, insurance, and freight value of imported goods, an EC100 dollar charge for processing applications for aliens' land-holding licenses, and an extension of a levy on imported bottled drinks to cover drinks imported in aluminum cans.

Increases were also announced for registering citizenship documents, as well as for communications and navigation services. The stamp duty is also to be amended to introduce or increase charges for certain services. On the relief side, Mitchell announced a repeal of the currency export legislation, effective January 1, 1993, a reduction of 50 percent in death duties paid, and the elimination, with immediate effect, of taxes made on severance payments by persons made redundant or who have retired. Mitchell also reported that company taxes would be reduced from 45 percent to 40 percent from the start of the 1993 fiscal year and a review was being conducted on the income tax system with the aim of restructuring it to provide relief on personal income tax.

"The available information shows that the rates of income tax in St. Vincent and the Grenadines for both companies and individuals are some of the highest in the Caribbean and this is having a negative impact with regard to our ability to attract investment and expertise," he explained. Mitchell said government was receiving technical assistance from the East Caribbean Economic Management Programme and the International Monetary Fund to undertake tax reform.

The prime minister dismissed the arguments of persons who have said there is a downturn in the economy. He pointed to increased approval for building plans, imports of cement, and circulation of currency without a devaluation as proof to the contrary.

"The facts altogether tell a totally different story from the fiction ridiculously published here every week," Mitchell said. He told parliament that despite the favourable reports from the World Bank and the IMF on the country's economic performance, continued growth in 1993 would depend on the outcome of current discussions on the future of the banana industry.

Trinidad and Tobago

High Court Validifies Jamaat al Muslimeen Amnesty

FL1612001792 Bridgetown CANA in English 2159 GMT 15 Dec 92

[Text] Port of Spain, Trinidad, Dec 15, CANA—The appeal by the Trinidad and Tobago Government against a decision freeing 114 members of the Jamaat al Muslimeen who had been charged in connection with a 1990 coup d'etat attempt has been set for May 4, next year. The date was given when the matter came up for hearing this week in the court of appeal, comprising Justices Sat Sharma, Mustapha Ibrahim, and Roger Hamel-Smith.

It was agreed that the state would file skeletal arguments on or before February 26, while lawyers for the Muslims would file their reply arguments on or before April 9. The state is appealing the ruling of High Court Judge Clebert Brooks, who said that an amnesty granted to the Muslims during the insurrection was valid.

Amnesty International Challenges Execution Warrants

FL1612004092 Bridgetown CANA in English 2211 GMT 15 Dec 92

[Text] Port of Spain, Trinidad, Dec 15, CANA—Amnesty International said Tuesday there was a serious fear that if more execution warrants were issued in Trinidad and Tobago, lawyers who were already attempting to save lives may be unable to help other condemned [passage indistinct], who represent prisoners under sentence of death free of charge after their direct appeals have been exhausted and who sometimes have to spend thousands of dollars for official transcripts and other expenses," Amnesty International said in a statement.

"There is a serious fear that if more execution warrants are issued, volunteer lawyers will be unable to cope with them and some prisoners may be executed without having a chance to pursue all legal avenues which could save their lives." Stating that it was gravely concerned about the government's move to resume hanging after a 13-year absence, the international group called on government not to take 'such a retrograde step.'

"Five execution warrants have been issued without warning during the past five weeks, all on prisoners who have spent years under sentence of death. Although temporary stays have been granted pending constitutional appeals, the government has indicated that further warrants will be issued over the next few weeks," it stated.

The first of the five warrants were issued in early November for the execution of Gayman Jurisngh, Fazal Mohammed, and Peter Matthews. The group said that in the cases of Jurisingh and Mohammed, warrants were issued despite the recommendation of a commission of inquiry into capital punishment in 1990 that prisoners under sentence of death for more than ten years should have their sentences commuted to life imprisonment.

Amnesty International said while the recommendation was accepted by the government in public statements made in 1990, it was reportedly rescinded by the present administration which came to power in 1991. Stays of execution were granted after lawyers filed an emergency motion in the high court arguing that the prisoners' constitutional rights would be violated if the executions were carried out.

The motion was later dismissed, but an appeal was immediately submitted. Guyanese lawyer Doodnauth Singh is observing the appeal on behalf of Amnesty International. While the appeal was being heard last week, two more death warrants were issued for Brian Francois and Lall Seeratan. The prisoners, who were sentenced to death in 1986 and whose final appeals were dismissed in 1988, were also granted stays of execution pending the outcome of their constitutional motions in January.

"However, the present government has made it clear that further execution warrants will be issued and that blanket stays will not be granted pending the motion currently before the court in the above cases," said the London-based group. "The expedited procedures used in the above cases have placed great pressures on the lawyers concerned," said the group, adding that in the past, constitutional motions were heard two or three months after a stay was granted.

The group said the resumption of executions would be contrary to the spirit of international human rights treaties which encourage governments to restrict their use of the death penalty with a view to abolition. It also noted that the country had ratified the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. Stating that abolition of the death penalty was being increasingly adopted by countries throughout the world, the group said the move by the Trinidad and Tobago was not only out of line with world trends, but also within the Caribbean region, where executions were increasingly rare.

Pay Claims To Follow Priority Debt Servicing

FL1612001192 Bridgetown CANA in English 2154 GMT 15 Dec 92

[Text] Port of Spain, Trinidad, Dec 15, CANA—Trinidad and Tobago's finance minister, Wendell Mottley, has said the government's priority is to meet rising debt service in 1993, after which it will address outstanding pay claims by government workers.

"The foreign exchange is the real constraint in the economy ... Parallel with this period of difficulty, one of the major, major constraints is the debt servicing," Mottley said.

"That's why in that context, too, we have been telling the public service unions that we are unable to deal before mid-1994 (with the debt to workers)," he told reporters. The government owes public servants and government-paid workers an estimated TT 3 billion dollars (one TT dollar = 23.5 U.S. cents) after a suspension in Cost of Living Allowance and other increments in 1987 and a one-year salary cut restored in 1991.

Debt servicing, U.S.630 million dollars in 1992, is projected to peak at 652 million dollars in 1993, before tailing off in the second half of 1994.

Mottley said that despite a U.S.100 million dollar Eurobond issue for Trinidad and Tobago recently, the country is not increasing its external debt: "Imagine a graph where we have a huge spike in 1992 and 1993 and we've locked off the top part of it by going to the Euro bond market and moving that across to the year 1999 by taking a five-year bond.

"It's not that we're borrowing more money. It's just that we're moving the maturity on that large repayment from here in 1992 and 1993 and shifting it ... To when our repayments are much less.

"But the fact is that we are reducing every year the total amount of foreign debt that we owe out there, so at the

end of 1992, in spite of the Euro-bond issue, Trinidad and Tobago will owe less money abroad than it owed at December 31, 1991," Mottley said.

Sugar Workers, Government Reach Salary Agreement

FL1512162192 Bridgetown CANA in English 1547 GMT 15 Dec 92

[Text] Port of Spain, Trinidad, Dec 15, CANA—Four thousand sugar workers in Trinidad have ended a week-old strike.

On Monday the state-owned sugar company agreed to meet the workers' back-pay demands, paving the way for a resumption of work.

The employees of Caroni (1975) Limited claim 55 million dollar (one TT dollar - 23.5 US cents).

According to the company, the initial offer of 30 million dollars would go to the existing employees, while the remaining 25 million dollars was for workers who have retired from the company and relatives of deceased workers.

The back-pay issue stems from a 1983 Industrial Court ruling which was appealed by the then People's National Movement government.

However, the proceedings were discontinued with the electoral victory of the National Alliance for Reconstruction, which held power from 1986 to 1991.

Workers shut down the operations of the two refineries last week when they downed tools to force government to set a date for payment of the back-pay.

In response, government said it would stick to its commitment to pay the workers before the start of the 1993 sugar crop, as agreed to in a report which was signed by government, a union and the company.

In a statement last Friday, the company said it was willing to pay the workers 30 million dollars next January 4, the start of the crop.

Workers however refused to return to work and pressed for the additional 25 million dollars.

President-General of the All Trinidad Sugar and General Workers Trade Union, Basdeo Panday, said government had pushed the workers into taking strike action.

"They were quite right to distrust the government, because of their history in relation to the sugar workers," Panday told CANA.

"Since the ruling of the court, promises have been made to sugar workers to pay them their money which they have worked for and are entitled to.

"The government this time pushed the workers too far and they retaliated in the only way they know with the hope of getting what is theirs."

Panday, who is also the country's opposition leader, said since the sugar company was strapped for cash, workers were hoping to get their outstanding balance over a five-year period.

Reaction to U.S. Trial, Release of Doctor

Salinas Criticizes 'Kidnapping'

PA1612144392 Mexico City Canal 13 Television Network in Spanish 1300 GMT 16 Dec 92

[Text] Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari on 15 December told local media that the kidnapping of Dr. Humberto Alvarez Machain is a dark page in international law. Salinas added that the situation ignored the essence of law as a means for civilized coexistence.

[Begin Salinas recording] The kidnapping of Dr. Alvarez Machain has been a dark page in international law. The judge's ruling rectified this outrage by releasing a Mexican citizen who was illegally taken to court in the United States. In addition, other individuals and institutions were slandered. This abnormal situation ignored the essence of law as a guide for human behavior for civilized and just coexistence among people and mankind. There can be international harmony only if one is ready to live within the law and respect the sovereignty of nations. Mexico will always uphold those principles. [end recording]

Foreign Secretariat on Court Ruling

PA1612045292 Mexico City Canal 13 Television Network in Spanish 1300 GMT 15 Dec 92

[Text] As for a ruling handed down on 14 December releasing Mexican Humberto Alvarez Machain for lack of evidence, the Foreign Relations Secretariat has said this does not settle the principle problem created in the bilateral relations with the United States in the wake of a U.S. Supreme Court ruling.

The Mexican Government always considered the trial in Los Angeles of Humberto Alvarez Machain illegal and unacceptable, because the kidnapping of this citizen was a flagrant violation of international law and the extradition treaty signed by the two countries.

Mexico denounced this and demanded that U.S. authorities return Alvarez Machain to Mexican territory. It also rejected any attempt to apply the laws of a country beyond its own borders. This is why it will continue to advocate a review of the extradition treaty signed with the United States to specify explicitly the invalidity of this sort of action and the U.S. Government promise that this will not happen again.

Attorney General's Office on Case

PA1612154392 Mexico City XHTV Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 16 Dec 92

[Text] The Attorney General's Office [PGR] has stated in a press release that Dr. Humberto Alvarez Machain is not under arrest. It added that it has found no reason to bring any charges against him. In a statement to the PGR, Dr. Alvarez Machain said he never knew Enrique Camarena, although he declared under pressure in the United States that he had. He reiterated that the police pressured him to implicate people who had nothing to with the case, chiefly former Mexican officials. Dr. Alvarez Machain stated he attended the family parties of [drug trafficker] Rafael Caro Quintero, but said he never met any politicians at them and never heard Caro Quintero speak of Manuel Bartlett, Juan Arevalo Gardoqui, or Enrique Alvarez del Castillo. He added that he has never seen those men. The PGR reiterated that Dr. Alvarez Machain would have been arrested and charged had it found any evidence during the inquiry that pointed to his responsibility in the case. The PGR will also request, based on a bilateral treaty, legal assistance from the U.S. Department of Justice to forward to Mexico the statements made by Rene Lopez and Ramon Lira to explain the murder of four persons.

Roundup of Press Reaction

PA1612011792 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1709 GMT 15 Dec 92

[Text] Mexico City, 15 Dec (NOTIMEX)—The Mexican press agreed on 15 December that the release of Dr. Humberto Alvarez Machain due to a lack of evidence in the "Camarena case" will not repair the damage done to Mexico's sovereignty with his kidnapping and trial.

In their main editorials, local newspapers that circulate nationwide reiterated the contradictions that existed in the trial of the Mexican doctor who on 14 December was acquitted in Los Angeles, California, due to a lack of evidence.

The Mexican doctor was kidnapped in 1990 in Guadalajara, Mexico, and taken to U.S. territory on charges of having participated in the kidnapping and murder of U.S. narcotics agent Enrique Camarena Salazar in February 1985.

Judge Edward Rafeedie at the Los Angeles Federal Court decided that the prosecutor's theories regarding Alvarez Machain's culpability were "foolhardy speculations" based at best on "suspicions and preconceptions."

"More than that is required to accuse a man" of conspiring to kidnap, torture, and murder another person, Rafeedie said.

The morning paper LA JORNADA pointed out that the decision should not be a source of rejoicing because we cannot act as if the problem has been resolved without broaching the fundamental issue that was and is behind the illegal action perpetrated by the U.S. authorities. The newspaper expressed "Mexico's undeniable need to have its national sovereignty and international law respected as basic rules in the relationship between two states."

In June the [U.S.] Supreme Court issued a controversial decision that endorsed the kidnapping of presumed criminals outside U.S. territory after Judge Rafeedie had said that Alvarez Machain's arrest was illegal. The U.S. court's decision generated protests from several countries that felt that the decision violated the basic principle of national sovereignty.

LA JORNADA said that the U.S. Government must still make amends for kidnapping the Mexican doctor and it must reverse the controversial Supreme Court decision.

In the opinion of government newspaper EL NACIONAL, Alvarez Machain's release meant a change in the implementation of U.S. justice, although "the absolute disregard shown for the law and due respect between nations" cannot be overlooked. The newspaper pointed out that since international law was violated it is to be expected that the United States will make "a serious and profound effort to purge and revise the instruments through which it imparts justice."

EL NACIONAL pointed out that the strong position maintained by the Mexican Government throughout the case prevailed. The trial proved that "the U.S. judicial system can allow itself to be led by interests foreign to the law, and at times by interests that are not only questionable but contrary to the law," EL NACIONAL added. The newspaper suggested that "the evident contradictions and the illegal manner in which Alvarez Machain's entire trial was conducted should lead to the amendment of the U.S. judicial system from a truly moral and legal standpoint."

EXCELSIOR, one of the country's largest newspapers, viewed the decision in the doctor's favor as positive "not only for the Mexican Government—which strongly questioned the kidnapping and subsequent trial—but also for the U.S. system." According to EXCELSIOR, for the Americans the trial "revealed the incorruptibility of their judges and the democracy that prevails in that country when, in the face of possible crimes, the courts allow political issues to intervene."

The tabloid UNOMASUNO said in its editorial that during the case the DEA came under suspicion for having conducted the so-called "Operation Legend" to kidnap Alvarez Machain and take him to U.S. territory. UNOMASUNO added that the DEA as well as certain internationally circulated newspapers used the confusing case to make frightful slander against the Mexican Government and political leaders."

Solana Rejects OAS Charter Reform Proposal

PA1412232392 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1847 GMT 14 Dec 92

[Text] Washington, 14 Dec (NOTIMEX)—Mexico on 14 December rejected a proposal to modify the OAS Charter to allow the suspension from that forum of governments reaching power through coup d'etats.

"The Mexican Government thinks the application of these reforms would deteriorate inter-American relations," Foreign Relations Secretary Fernando Solana said before the 16th OAS special assembly.

The chief of Mexican diplomacy said Mexico understands the concern over possible coup d'etats. He pointed out, however, that this risk would not be averted by granting "supranational" powers to the regional organization.

El Salvador

Reportage on National Reconciliation Day Ceremony

Peace 'Declaration' Issued

PA1512203192 San Salvador Radio and Television Networks in Spanish 1726 GMT 15 Dec 92

["Declaration" issued by presidents, vice presidents, and personal envoys of presidents on the occasion of the National Reconciliation Day Ceremony in San Salvador on 15 December]

[Text] On this day, 15 December 1992, we have met in San Salvador, El Salvador, to accompany President Alfredo Cristiani and the Salvadoran people, with the purpose of participating in the solemn act that ends the period of cease-fire of the armed confrontation, in keeping with the terms of the peace agreement signed by the Salvadoran Government and the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] in Chapultepeque, Mexico, on 16 January 1992.

This is the beginning of another phase of the peace process, which must serve to promote and strengthen reconciliation and harmonious coexistence among all Salvadorans. We accompany this significant moment of Salvadoran history with support and special joy, with the understanding that peace in El Salvador is a sign of true hope, not only for its noble people, but for all the sister nations of Central America, and in general, for the fraternal countries of Latin America. We salute and recognize the goodwill demonstrated by the ones mainly responsible for the favorable march of the process, in the sense that their total willingness to achieve the total fulfillment of the peace commitments is a factor of stability and harmony with a view to the future of all Salvadorans.

Interpreting the will of the international community, whose presence in this process is represented consistently and effectively by the UN organization and by the group of countries that have participated closely in the positive evolution of the work for peace in El Salvador, we express our best wishes that this nation will continue forward on the path of progress. We reiterate our commitment to maintain our cooperation in the consolidation of peace and to strengthen the democratic institutions in El Salvador.
[Signed] Jorge Antonio Serrano Diaz, Guatemala
[Signed] Rafael Leonardo Callejas Romero, Honduras
[Signed] Violeta Barrios de Chamorro, Nicaragua
[Signed] George Price, Belize
[Signed] German Serrano Pinto, Costa Rica
[Signed] Narcis Serra y Serra, Spain
[Signed] Dan Quayle, United States
[Signed] Humberto de la Calle Lombana, Colombia
[Signed] Fernando Solana Morales, Mexico
[Signed] Beatriz Rangel Mantilla, Venezuela

President Cristiani Speaks

PA1612005092 San Salvador Radio and Television Networks in Spanish 1905 GMT 15 Dec 92

[Speech by President Alfredo Cristiani on National Reconciliation Day at the International Fairgrounds in San Salvador—live]

[Text] Your Excellencies the President of Guatemala, the President of Honduras and Mrs. Callejas, the President of Nicaragua, the Prime Minister of Belize; President of the honorable Legislative Assembly and deputies; President of the honorable Supreme Court of Justice and magistrates; Your Excellencies the Vice President of the Republic of Costa Rica, the Deputy Prime Minister of Spain, the Vice President of the United States of America, the UN Secretary General and high officials accompanying him; Your Excellencies the Vice Presidential designate of the Republic of Colombia and the Secretary of Foreign Relations of Mexico; Representative of the Government of Venezuela; Representatives of the honorable international missions that honor us with your presence; Your Excellency the Apostolic Nuncio; Your Excellencies the ambassadors and honorables chiefs of diplomatic missions accredited in our country; members of the cabinet; honorable representatives of international organizations; members of the National Commission for the Consolidation of Peace; members of the government Dialogue Commission; members of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] [applause]; members of political parties; members of the Armed Forces High Command and commanders [applause]; municipal mayor of San Salvador [applause]; church authorities, military authorities; governors, city mayors, and municipal council members; special guests; dear fellow countrymen:

Today, 15 December 1992, is a historic date for the Salvadoran people and a decisive milestone in the regional pacification process after more than 10 years of polarization and conflict. The Salvadoran conflict, a product of a series of longtime deficiencies, was stained by the aggressive colors of the defunct East-West confrontation. Fortunately, national, regional, and international conditions merged at a given moment to make feasible a political solution to the warlike conflict that formally concluded with the signing of the peace agreements in Chapultepec on 16 January 1992.

Now, 11 months later, we have reached this special moment in the process that ends the period called the armed confrontation. We are now moving on to a new phase in which there is only one way open to settle the political differences: democratic institutionality.

I understood from the very moment when the people honored me by assigning me the country's governmental leadership that these noble and beloved people were making me responsible for their dearest hope: the attainment of peace. I also understood that our people yearned for and needed the kind of peace that would not mean a simple conclusion of hostilities but the birth of a new

horizon that the Salvadoran people could approach together in a joint nationwide effort that would open the doors to a future of harmony and progress.

In response to this goal, which was undeniably becoming the government's main responsibility, I said the following words in my first speech on 1 June 1989: At this moment, as I assume the dignity of the nation's highest magistracy, I am no one's enemy. I offer my goodwill to everyone to find solutions that will benefit the people to whom I am accountable. [applause] I am willing to work for the future because huge tasks will await us following this phase of violence, and those tasks are a responsibility that we all must share. I fully subscribe to those words today, but in a very different context.

On 16 January, the violence of war ended in an exemplary fashion and we are now definitely beginning that future that we spoke about three and a half years ago when war prevented development from moving ahead with the encouragement and coordination that current conditions now allow. We are on the path of awareness of the future and for Salvadorans this is something that has no similar precedent in our history. The truth is that our country opens a new path that will lead us to the achievement of the great values that sustain our national identity, which are: liberty, security, legality, and solidarity as part of the complete progress of all Salvadorans. This is an achievement, but at the same time a challenge. We have made great efforts to attain this and are willing to face that challenge with all conviction and determination. Now the challenge must be to alleviate poverty in our small but great nation. If we are to be completely sincere we must say clearly that the merits for the great achievements that we celebrate today are not just the government's. The work and successful results are the deeds of many, and particularly and very especially the Salvadoran people whose commitment to peace and democracy deserve all our admiration and respect.

We are at this very favorable juncture for our country because we have all managed to come together in a mutual effort of purposes and determination. We recognize the contribution of the political parties whose dedication to the good development of the process honors and dignifies us. I personally wish to recognize and thank the encouragement and support our dear Nationalist Republican Alliance has given us. [applause] The understanding and patriotic spirit of institutions such as the Armed Forces is very valuable. [applause] They accepted the changes the peace process has demanded with discipline. As commander in chief of the Salvadoran Armed Forces we feel proud of the steady professionalism attained by the Armed Forces during the conflict and the continued demonstration of it during this new stage of peace and democracy. [applause]

We also take into account the participation of the social forces, whose legitimate activity for the sake of peace is an excellent sign for the tasks that will be demanded from us for complete national reestablishment.

We need to note the way the FMLN is assuming its own challenges and responsibilities in its historic demand to become a strictly political group, which has to enter democracy with all the responsibilities such a decision entails and represents. The understanding that is being generated throughout society deserves much praise, which opens a fresh chapter on the peaceful coexistence between Salvadorans, without any type of exception or exclusion.

At last we are gathered, all the men and women of this society, around a common project: the democratization of our institutions, the pacification of spirits and personal and social conduct, the coordinated effort to overcome the effects of the extended crisis taking into account a model of life, which makes us all feel as participants.

The peace, which is receiving such a decisive thrust on this day, has immense moral value. Salvadorans are setting an example of humility in our own history by leaving aside the harmful passions of fanaticism and hatred and, for the first time, experiment the supreme virtues of social harmony in an atmosphere of generous coexistence. This is healthy pluralism in the political arena.

We want a just society, an efficient state, and dynamic institutions. To have all this we need to ensure the law reigns unequivocally. Power must be subordinated to law. If Salvadorans set any example, it is their determination to move forward even amid the most tragic adversities. Nothing made us budge in the past, not even the scourge of war. Now that permanent peace is already a day-to-day reality, there is nothing stopping us from building together the bridges of trust and understanding demanded by community life.

We already displayed signs of stoicism; we are displaying examples of rationality. We have all the necessary tools to give an example of reconciliation. This year, more than in previous ones, it is the right time to remember the call for peace on earth and goodwill toward men.

This enormous pacification, democratization, and modernization effort we are intent on carrying out would not have been possible without the support and understanding of the international community. We wish to thank the United Nations for its extraordinary support in this process. We remember with special affection previous UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar who... [applause] accompanied us during a long stretch of this arduous journey.

We recognize with sincere gratitude the help given us by current UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali. [applause] The work done by Marrack Goulding and Alvaro de Soto, who are top-ranking collaborators of the Secretariat General, is praiseworthy. So are the contributions of the distinguished people who worked with them. The work done by the UN Observers for El Salvador, whose unprecedented goal was registered in the history of the world organization, also deserves our sincere recognition.

Everything would have been much more difficult and complicated without the support, encouragement, help, and permanent interest of our four friends, namely, Colombia, Spain, Mexico, and Venezuela, and especially their presidents. Some offered us their homes to host our negotiations in an atmosphere of fraternal trust. They were always there to offer good advice affectionately and to say the right words, especially at crucial moments.

The United States of America also played an important role in this process. They always supported our unbreakable effort to achieve this peace that Salvadorans need and to which they aspire.

They also respectfully offered support when we requested it. They never attempted to impose their opinions over ours. As soon as they began cooperating in this process, our relations with the United States grew closer, more honest, and more constructive than they already were.

Throughout this process, we have felt the warm, continuous support of the brother countries and governments of Central America. Salvadoran peace is really a peace for the benefit of the region. As soon as this peace was attained, the integrationist effort can develop better. We have always expressed a Central American spirit and this is the historic hour for this new Central America, which is not only geographically completed with the participation of all countries of the region, but seeks to lay the realistic groundwork for a process of unity that will conclude when a single flag flies over the sacred grounds of Central America.

We thank the international community, represented with so much dignity in this ceremony. We thank them for their understanding and support which made this process move forward. Their political and moral support is fundamental to successfully implementing the great national plan. Financial and technical support is also vital, however, so that the country's reconstruction can produce a new model of a country. That is basically our duty. Given the current conditions in the world, the international community has an important responsibility, which we are sure they will not forget.

Friends of the world, brothers of Central America, dear fellow countrymen: The history of El Salvador has taken an extraordinarily important turn from war to peace and from confrontation to reconciliation. The road to the new horizon of peaceful coexistence is just beginning. We reiterate our deep faith in democracy in this hour in which we have all accepted the democratic ideals as the horizon in our national life.

There has been much blood and suffering, but it was not in vain. We have a country that looks toward the future and God, moved by the prayers of this noble and valuable people, has granted us the supreme gift of peace. Let us accept peace. Let us build peace, let us live in peace, progress, and freedom. May our Lady of the Peace always guide us and may God bless El Salvador. Thank you very much. [applause]

Shafik Handal Speaks

PA1512212092 San Salvador Radio and Television Networks in Spanish 1750 GMT 15 Dec 92

[Speech by Jorge Shafik Handal, representative of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, on the occasion of National Reconciliation Day at the international fairgrounds in San Salvador—live]

[Text] Mr. Secretary General of the United Nations Butrus Butrus-Ghali; Mr. Vice President of the Government of Spain and other representatives of the governments of the friendly countries assisting the UN secretary general; Messrs. Presidents and Vice Presidents of the sister Central American nations; Mr. Vice President of the United States of America; Messrs. Foreign Ministers; Mr. Apostolic Nuncio and other church authorities; Messrs. Ambassadors and other envoys who distinguish us with their presence at this solemn ceremony; Messrs. members of the diplomatic corps accredited in our country; Distinguished Guests; Friends and Comrades; Salvadorans:

Today, we mark the end of the armed conflict. We have fulfilled an impeccable and exemplary cease-fire, unparalleled in today's world. Thus the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] has demonstrated that it made a serious and firm bid in favor of peace and was not playing a game of make-believe.

The accomplishments made up until today are substantial. We have based our decision to terminate the existence of our army and attend this ceremony on those accomplishments. A basic reform of the constitution was undertaken, clearly placing military power under the democratically elected civilian government. The Attorney General's Office for the Defense of Human Rights was created. The responsibility for maintaining public order was separated from the Armed Forces and the National Civilian Police was created for that purpose with a new doctrine. The foundations for the reform of the administration of justice and a reform of the electoral system, making it a reliable and transparent instrument of democracy, were set. Laws and decisions that give life to the constitutional reforms and other agreements were issued. We are referring to the elimination of the National Guard and the Treasury Police [applause], the elimination of forceful conscription, the creation of a new system of military service and reserve, and the elimination of the civil defense and the Army's territorial service. The National Intelligence Directorate under the Armed Forces was institutionally eliminated, and the state intelligence organization under the Presidency of the Republic was created. The academic council of the military school was appointed with an equal number of military officers and civilians, including a representative of the FMLN. [applause] Contrary to the opinions that this would be an impossible mixture, the academic council has worked harmoniously to reform military education in accordance with the new doctrine. Laws

establishing controls against illegal enrichment by soldiers were approved in addition to laws adapting military jurisdiction to the new constitutional terms.

We carried out the formal dissolution of the Belloso, Bracamonte, and Atlacatl Rapid Deployment Battalions. These will be followed by the dissolution of the Atonal and Arce Battalions. Although these steps in the military reform and military reduction are insufficient, have been distorted, and some have been undermined, the military restructuring is under way to favor the majority of Salvadorans and Army officers in the long run.

It is unprecedented that an ad hoc committee made up of Salvadorans who had been elected based on a consensus among the parties has decided to purge the Army chiefs and officers. [applause] Its conclusions are binding and must be carried out regardless. That fact gives military personnel the historic opportunity of guiding the institution on new paths that are consistent with democracy. All people will applaud this achievement. The FMLN aspires to reconcile with the renewed Armed Forces for the sake of stability, peace, and democracy. [applause]

The Truth Committee will submit its report in January. The laws on the civil police and on the National Academy of Public Security have been issued. The academy, although somewhat delayed, is training the first contingent of personnel, which includes former FMLN combatants. The National Civilian Police, PNC, will be deployed in January 1993 and will begin to substitute for the current National Police in keeping with the agreements. The National Adjudicature Council was established as one of the most influential mechanisms of reform, purging, and improvement of the administration of justice. The law on the protection of the war disabled and displaced was issued, benefiting former combatants of the FMLN as well as of the Armed Forces and affected members of the civilian population. A new electoral code was approved and will serve as the basis for the 1994 general elections. Perhaps all these new laws will have to be improved. That work will undoubtedly be carried out based on the results of the March 1994 elections. [applause]

We have concluded the verification of the land inventory presented by the FMLN and have increased land transfers to landholders and former combatants. The socioeconomic forum was installed with a few months' delay, yet it has not yielded any results worth mentioning. The forum exists, however, and will continue to provide a means of reaching a concerted effort, which is indispensable for stability and peace. The alternative of concerted effort, although not amazing, would be the heightening of the social confrontation. On 14 December, the Supreme Electoral Tribunal ordered the legal registration of the FMLN and gave it political party status. [applause, cheers]

This step was obstructed for a long time by some politicians who insisted on the clever idea of shutting out the peaceful changes, the peaceful roads. That attitude led to the armed conflict, but now the country wants peace and democracy. [applause]

That situation led us to the decision to establish the period of armed peace. Going from the negotiation process to the signing of the agreements and on to the armed peace was a huge progress that produced a positive radical change in our daily life. That change increased the national commitment to strengthen peace, bolster the economy, and progress toward democracy and justice.

Even though we are suffering from a wave of common crime, the situation as a whole resembles neither war nor the peace crisis that many were predicting. This has been the result of a firm and mature commitment on both sides to maintain peace.

We have now ended the armed peace and are beginning the civic, political struggle, which marks even more significant progress. Except for a few small minority groups, the entire population—the entire nation and all of its sectors—want to preserve peace and allow the opportunity to progress. The recalcitrant groups repeatedly made threats saying that once we laid down our weapons they would destroy us, finish us off in a dirty war.

We were unarmed when we initiated the armed struggle, but we had great convictions, commitments, and revolutionary quality. That is why a large percentage of the people supported us and why we received a great deal of world support. That is how we obtained weapons, and that is how we were able to fight as we did. We are not abandoning our convictions or our revolutionary quality by laying down our weapons. We also have immense experience. The entire population gained a great experience and their support for the FMLN has grown.

The international community is actively committed to our peace process. We are committed to it. No one can say we are defenseless or alone. [applause]

Peace, democracy, justice, and reconciliation are the paths of prosperity and the way to suffocate those little recalcitrant, narrow-minded groups. [applause] To strengthen this obvious national commitment, the FMLN decided to end the armed peace period. The FMLN keeps betting on peace. We reaffirm, as we did in Chapultepec, that we do not regret any of the stages and methods of struggle that have brought about this moment for El Salvador. We are now and will continue to be revolutionaries, faithful to the poor, hard-working people, the true protagonists and supporters of this struggle. We are proud to be participants along with the biggest, most diverse mass of social and political sectors in this democratic revolution, which is growing along special paths that are very Salvadoran. [applause]

Fellow countrymen, two centuries from now, even two millenniums from now, this hour of history will be seen as crucial. It will leave a beneficial footprint in the future of our nation.

It is a time to look to the future and participate in and contribute to the country's development. There is room and a task for everyone.

There are still agreements that have not been fulfilled. The commitment to continue fulfilling the agreements until the end has been clearly assumed.

The decisive year 1993 is coming. A political struggle will be waged in 1993, the results of which will be measured in the 1994 elections. The FMLN hopes that a government of all forces committed to the democratic program contained in the peace accords will emerge victorious from that struggle.

The world is facing an hour of changes and growing interdependency. Our continent is also filled with news. Last week, the Uruguayan people rejected the government's neoliberal program. On 3 November, the people of the United States did something similar in the presidential elections. [applause] Not long ago the Brazilians set a good example by firing the president of their country, a champion of the neoliberal model, for corruption. Venezuela was once again rocked by events that, in the end, were the result of widespread dissatisfaction created by similar causes.

The aforementioned events make it clear that democracy cannot exist when poverty increases, and there cannot be democracy without social justice and solutions for poverty and deprivation. [applause]

After the collapse of statist socialism in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union, there are no indications that the crisis has hit bottom in that region. That is underscored by the incredible brutality of the war in Yugoslavia and in the southern and Asian republics of the defunct Soviet Union. At the same time, outdated economic commotions and political phenomena that were believed to be buried in the past are now taking place in Western Europe.

Meanwhile, poverty, hunger, and backwardness among two-thirds of humankind are growing with respect to the rich countries of the north and west. We are facing a period of readjustment and world change. Our process of peace and democracy places us in an advantageous position. We have the possibility to move toward a concerted effort and avoid polarization and confrontation. We have the opportunity to move toward integration and regional peace as a safer bridge for the stable and advantageous incorporation of Central America in today's fast-paced world, thereby avoiding corrosive isolationism. We have a chance to move toward the modernization of the recognized productive capacity of our people, not toward the constant worsening of underdevelopment.

Only peace, liberty, democracy, and social justice can make the miracle of sustainable development begin. We have laid the foundations to accomplish this. Those foundations are cast from tens of thousands of lives, much blood, and the suffering of all who have fallen in the war that we now leave behind.

They left us with the chore of seeking new models that could combine economic growth and efficiency with social justice as well as sustained development with democracy. This requires concerted efforts, creativity, deep structural changes, stability, and the ability to govern.

This will be the essential content of the political debate in 1993 and 1994. I am referring to all the fallen, to all those who have fought along with us and to those who fought with the Armed Forces. I am talking about the wounded on both sides and their relatives, who were very often related to fighters on both sides. I am talking about those who were killed without being on either side in the conflict. We pay a tribute to all of them.

The FMLN also wants to pay a tribute to all those who, being sons and daughters of other peoples of the world, came here to give their life, blood, or work for common ideals. [applause]

We wish to give special recognition to the constant contribution of all churches in the search for peace and justice. We wish to particularly mention the work for peace and human rights done by the Catholic Archbishopric of San Salvador. [applause]

We wish to pay tribute to so many priests and pastors who lost their lives or were persecuted or exiled. [applause] The Jesuit priests, who were murdered, are the symbol of them all. [applause]

We also want to recognize the journalists who at the expense of numerous lives opened up room for truth and peace. [applause]

The FMLN wishes to thank Secretary General Butrus-Ghali and the United Nations for their dedication to the cause of Salvadoran peace. [applause] We wish to thank the secretary general's predecessor, Javier Perez de Cuellar, as well as the secretary general's group of friendly countries. [applause]

We wish to thank once again Cuba and the Sandinist National Liberation Front, FSLN, for their solidarity and support and their cooperation in attaining peace. [long boos, whistles] I will repeat it so you can shout again. We wish to thank once again Cuba and the FSLN [louder boos, whistles] for their solidarity and support during the war and their cooperation in attaining peace. We wish to reiterate our recognition of Mexico for its unlimited hospitality to the negotiation process and to many of us. [applause] We express our recognition of Spain for its dynamic role in the fulfillment of the agreements and the organization of the National Civilian Police.

We wish to once again recognize the political and economic commitment of the United States in the cause for peace in our country. [applause]

We thank all the countries who make donations and provide other types of technical and economic cooperation to help our country in its reconstruction. Countries such as Spain, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Canada, Italy, the EEC, and others contribute to the land transfer

process, the establishment of the PNC, the operation of the National Commission for the Consolidation of Peace, the Ad Hoc and Truth Commissions, and several social programs.

The Salvadoran peace and democracy process is undoubtedly an experiment that is well worth supporting because it encourages new and creative solutions. It is a contribution to life, not to destruction and death. It is a contribution that dignifies and stands out.

We are immensely grateful for the ample international solidarity with our struggle, and we thank all people who have encouraged us in the past and who are encouraging us now to continue our struggle. [applause]

Moved by great emotion and admiration, we send our warmest greetings to our comrades who as of yesterday were combatants and leaders of our invincible guerrilla army. [applause and shouts]

Comrades, new revolutionary tasks—now peaceful ones—await you. We do not doubt you will soon learn to carry them out and that you will do so efficiently.

Viva peace! Viva democracy! Viva El Salvador! [applause]

Electoral Tribunal Registers FMLN as Party

PA1512140292 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 15 Dec 92

[Report by Alfredo Villarreal]

[Text] The Supreme Electoral Tribunal [TSE] registered the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, FMLN, as a political party on 15 December.

FMLN members delivered to the TSE a UN document confirming the rebel organization is totally disarmed. Following the demobilization of the last FMLN contingent, the TSE received a UN certification from members of the FMLN Political Committee confirming the FMLN is completely disarmed. The TSE then continued the process to register it as a political party.

[Begin unidentified TSE member recording, broadcast in progress]...which orders the registration of the FMLN as a political party after complying with the condition demanded by this court in accordance with the Constitution in the sense that it should no longer be an armed group. We have received a certification from the United Nations, as you have just witnessed, and we have issued a resolution based on that document. [end recording]

FMLN leaders were optimistic regarding the resolution, stressing their new struggle will now be in the political field.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified FMLN leader] We consider the resolution totally satisfactory. We believe justice has finally prevailed in our country, and that the efforts of the FMLN to become a legal party have been successful. History has shown we were always right.

[Unidentified reporter] What will be your next step?

[FMLN leader] We must conduct great organizational efforts as part of our immediate goals. This will include designing an electoral strategy for 1994. [end recording]

After 10 years of armed struggle, the FMLN now has joined the country's political organizations, which are already preparing to participate in a tough electoral campaign in 1994.

FMLN Committee Member on Role

PA1512182292 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 1548 GMT 15 Dec 92

[Interview with Roberto Canas, member of the FMLN Political Committee, by Marco Antonio Guevara at the International Fair of El Salvador in San Salvador—live]

[Text] [Guevara] We have Commander Roberto Roca, member of the FMLN Political Committee with us. Commander, what is the composition of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] command?

[Canas] I have to make a correction. My name is Roberto Canas and I am a member of the FMLN Political Committee. The FMLN is now a legal party, made up of a 15-member directorate. Three members represent each one of the organizations that form the FMLN. We are here as a party recognized by law. I am proud to be a member of the FMLN. I am optimistic and determined to continue to make an important contribution to the country's future.

[Guevara] What will the work you will carry out be based on now?

[Canas] We will prepare to govern El Salvador. When one organizes a political party, it is to take power and to govern. The work we are going to carry out is to prepare to steer the direction of the future of the country. We have been preparing all this time and will continue to do so. Our objective is to govern El Salvador.

[Guevara] Will there be any possibility of a coalition in 1994?

[Canas] I think that possibility always exists, as long as the parties joining the coalition agree with the political platform. If there is an election platform on which many parties agree, the best thing for them to do is to form a coalition.

Calderon Sol Comments on Demobilization Process

PA1512134392 San Salvador Radio Farabundo Marti Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 14 Dec 92

[Report by Dagoberto Correa]

[Text] On 14 December, San Salvador Mayor Armando Calderon Sol stated that any person carrying a weapon after 15 December is mentally retarded, a psychopath,

and not a FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] member because this organization has now become a political party.

The events commemorating the end of the war are scheduled to take place on 15 December. El Salvador will give a clear example of what can be accomplished when there is political will to achieve social justice and to start the new year in peace and harmony.

[Begin Caldron Sol recording] A new phase is about to begin in El Salvador. A very different phase. We have decided to leave violence in the past and search for reconciliation. We are now seeking a phase of reconciliation and national reconstruction. All Salvadorans must now make an effort to work for the benefit of the country and to work to make 1993 a year when we all seek to improve our welfare and to reconstruct our country. It is time to let our wounds and scars heal. We must remember what took place in this country so it will never happen again. I believe we must all feel satisfied and proud of the effort of the Salvadoran people. [end recording]

According to Calderon Sol, the peace agreements will be fulfilled in stages.

[Begin Calderon Sol recording] All the agreements will not be fulfilled today because the peace agreements will be completed in stages. As you have seen, the agreements have begun to be honored. I believe certain obstacles have been effectively overcome. Honoring of the peace agreements are a reality. It is a historical step that means an end to the war. The FMLN is no longer an armed group. The only armed group of the Salvadoran people is called the Salvadoran Armed Forces. As of 15 December, the FMLN has been extinguished. I believe there could be armed people, and there could be [words indistinct]. Undoubtedly, no one can give us assurances about this. I believe we would be dreamers if we were to believe all the weapons were surrendered. The important and far reaching historical part of all this is that any person who continues to carry weapons will be completely stripped of authority. Any person who carry weapons in this country is either abnormal, mentally ill, or a psychopath. Such a person is not a member of the FMLN. The FMLN has now assumed a political struggle. [end recording]

In conclusion, Calderon Sol pointed out that a spirit of reconciliation will prevail in El Salvador. This will ensure the reconstruction of the country. Mr. Calderon Sol made these statements after inaugurating a new footbridge in front of the Social Security Hospital.

Ponce Expresses 'Doubts' Over Weapons Inventory

PA1512170992 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 1613 GMT 15 Dec 92

[Interview with Defense Minister Rene Emilio Ponce by Alfredo Villarreal at the International Fair of El Salvador in San Salvador—live]

[Text] [Villarreal] General, how does the military institution feel?

[Ponce] We feel optimistic because this is a new stage in the country's peace process. The armed confrontation is over and the reconciliation of the Salvadoran family, as well as the consolidation of peace, has begun. In addition, the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] is officially disarming itself as an armed group. They will now seek power through civilized mechanisms and the means provided by democracy. I believe this is a very important process, which the Salvadoran people must celebrate.

[Villarreal] As for the [word indistinct] of the FMLN, what is your opinion, General?

[Ponce] For the time being, I think they have completed it. We do not have a UN Observers for El Salvador report on the completion of the destruction of FMLN weapons. As for the complete inventory of weapons, we also have our doubts. At the beginning they submitted a report to the United Nations, which has been modified. This modification should be examined and evaluated to see if it really corresponds to the weapons actually used by the FMLN to attack the Salvadoran people for 12 years.

[Villarreal] Do you think some of them will remain armed?

[Ponce] I would not like to be pessimistic, but objective. Unfortunately the peace agreements did not include the urban commando units. We believe these people have not laid down their weapons in the concentration areas and their structures have not been touched. We hope nothing happens. Some incidents of violence may take place. There have been cases of violence between extreme right-wing and left-wing groups during the peace process.

[Villarreal] Finally, General, could you give us an assessment of the 10 years of war. How did you view the war?

[Ponce] During the 10 years of war, the Armed Forces had to face this aggression. During the early years, we did not have any foreign aid. The cost has been very high. We lost 10,000 of the best men of our institution. A total of 25,000 of them were injured, of which 7,000 are disabled. This is the Army's contribution of blood, sweat, courage, and sacrifice for the freedom and democracy that prevails in our country.

[Villarreal] Thank you, General.

Guatemala

Defense Minister on Weapons Purchase From Israel

PA1512191492 Guatemala City SIGLO VEINTIUNO in Spanish 14 Dec 92 p 2

[Text] Defense Minister General Domingo Garcia Samayoa has said that "the sale of military equipment for 1993 by the Israeli Government is irreversibly open

to the Guatemalan Army just as it is to other countries of the world. Therefore, it is no secret."

He added that "during an official visit to Israel, the government and the military reaffirmed to Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin their will to close a deal to buy military equipment. A large percentage of the Armed Forces' materiel comes from Israeli manufacturers."

He stressed that "the military equipment purchase was never intended to complicate or make any given situation conditional; on the contrary, it could have been made on the world's free market."

The defense minister stated: "An exchange of ground or air force experience is also possible. The Israelis could offer us technical assistance and training to help us become more professional."

He explained that such assistance could be in communications, as Israel has advanced technology that will prove very interesting. He said the Army cannot afford to lag behind in the constant evolution of technology.

Government-Media 'Controversy' Intensifies

PA1612021192 Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish 14 Dec 92 p 4

[All quotation marks as published]

[Text] The controversy between journalists and the government is becoming more radical. After the statements by President Serrano in Panama, the National Council for the Defense of Journalists Rights issued a communique describing President Serrano's statements as dreadful, and once again calls on the government to reflect.

The National Council is made up by the Union of Parliamentary Journalists, the Guatemalan Chamber of Journalism [CGP], the National Press Circle, the Guatemalan Association of Female Reporters and Writers, the Guatemalan Sports Columnists, the Guatemalan Journalists Association [APG], and reporters as well as correspondents from the major international news agencies.

The communique points out that "during the past weeks, the climate of confrontation nurtured by the government against the national media has become dangerous and radical, especially as a result of the unfortunate and alarming pronouncements by President Jorge Serrano Elias in Panama where he emphasized that human rights are fully respected in Guatemala. Serrano continued by indicating that on the contrary, the humanitarian organizations and the national media "have created an industry" based "on a slander campaign to fill the pages of their newspapers."

The National Council also says that "this government's attacks on the media is not an isolated incident. It is part of a situation of insecurity and lack of protection most Guatemalans currently live under, as well as the hepatic [hepatica] reaction popular dissatisfaction is causing the government. This popular dissatisfaction is one of the main causes of division in Guatemala."

"Journalists are aware that they might be groups that attempt to take advantage of the media vindication movement that only seeks to ensure the free exercise of the profession as well as free thought. The unyielding unity will not, however, allow or tolerate that possibility".

"Our answer is categorical to the effect that at no time have we taken over the role of 'destabilizers.' Neither will we be the scapegoats the government wants us to be. It is evident that the responsible and chief destabilizer is the government with its mistaken, instigating, and violent attitudes as well as policies".

"The fact that the media organizations and the nonassociated journalists have united to warn the people about the current situation constitutes the best evidence of the seriousness and danger we ascribe to the current practice, highlighted by the government's arrogance in leading the country. The government is attempting to blame the media for all the evils that has befallen the country, even to the point of blindly stating that everything is fine and that the newspapers, media owners, and commentators have created an industry of lies, and that our prestige has been heightened as a result of the slander campaign".

"Is is common knowledge, nationally as well as internationally, that reporters have been the victims of repression, intimidation, persecution, torture, kidnapping, and exile.

Nicaragua

Presidency Minister Discusses U.S. Visit

PA1612032592 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1830 GMT 15 Dec 92

[Interview with Presidency Minister Antonio Lacayo upon returning from the United States by unidentified reporters at Cesar Augusto Sandino International Airport in Managua—live; broadcast in progress]

[Excerpts] [Lacayo] ....we spoke with Mr. Brian Atwood and Mr. [name indistinct], who are responsible for the transition at the State Department. They were appointed recently by Mr. Clinton. We agreed that it is necessary to have the best possible relations between our two countries and for the United States to provide material support so that Nicaragua can continue taking firm steps toward the construction of a democratic and progressive society, until our society becomes a model society.

Mr. Atwood has been a good friend of our government since 1989, when he decidedly supported Mrs. Chamorro's election campaign. During the election campaign, he frequently visited our campaign headquarters across from El Rancho.

Mr. [name indistinct] was an official at the U.S. Embassy in Managua in the 1960's. He was a friend of [the late] Pedro

Joaquin Chamorro and of his struggle, and of President Violeta Chamorro. We also met with authorities of the Bush administration at the White House and at the State Department and we stated our appreciation of the recent disbursement of $54 million. We also requested a prompt disbursement of the $50 million that is still pending. I have returned optimistic that this second disbursement will be announced within the next 30 days. That would mark the end of a chapter. [passage omitted]

We are now ready to answer questions you may have. I am in the company of [Nicaraguan] Foreign Minister Ernesto Leal and our ambassador to the United Nations. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] [words indistinct] Regarding the second disbursement, has the government already in mind what sector will benefit from those funds?

[Lacayo] Yes. During the talks between our government and the Agency for International Development [AID], it was decided that the second disbursement, the $50 million, will be used to strengthen the country's ability to finance production in the mid and long term. In other words, as soon as the $50 million are disbursed, it will be made available to our country's banks so that they may finance productive projects that until now have had no suitable financial aid. This is going to complement the government's efforts to provide short-term credits. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] Minister Lacayo, we want to know what is the outlook of the truce, followed by a national dialogue, that the Social Christian Party has proposed for next year. Do you back this proposal? What specific steps will the government take once it establishes the nature of the relations that could be held with the new U.S. Administration?

[Lacayo] We have always said that the government backs this proposal by the Social Christian Party for a truce in 1993 so that the politicians, instead of embarking on premature campaigns and incendiary speeches, may dedicate themselves to production, basically, so that when we hold elections in 1996 all Nicaraguans are in a better position. This is what the Nicaraguans want. Regarding the national dialogue, we are in favor of it. But to have this national dialogue, it is necessary to have a normal situation at the National Assembly, which is the constitutional and official forum of our country for holding a political dialogue. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] After closing the second Legislative Assembly session on 15 December, Assembly President Alfredo Cesar said that diplomats in Nicaragua, most of them, failed to attend a meeting at the Legislative Assembly because of pressure exerted by the government through the Foreign Ministry. Can you confirm this report? Is it true that the foreign minister exerted pressure so that diplomats would not go to the Legislative Assembly?

[Leal] This is completely false. The Foreign Ministry will never pressure any diplomat into deciding one way or another. The Chamorro administration respects sovereign rights and the Vienna Convention and all diplomats here know their rights and obligations. We have issued information internationally and we have informed representatives of friendly countries with which we hold relations and which have diplomatic missions in Nicaragua about the Supreme Court of Justice resolution and about the letter that President Violeta Chamorro sent to the president of the Legislative Assembly in response to a request by the Supreme Court of Justice. We have the obligation, as Foreign Ministry, to keep our representatives abroad and the representatives of countries with which we hold excellent relations and who are accredited to Nicaragua, informed about events in our country. Diplomats are free to attend any event they may deem necessary in our country. They know this and therefore we cannot accept any report that the Foreign Ministry had anything to do with the scant presence of the diplomatic corps at the Legislative Assembly. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] Will the U.S. aid being disbursed allow the Nicaraguan Government to start up with more economic stability?

[Lacayo] I would say that it is not sufficient, but it is necessary. This disbursement has come at the same time that the Inter-American Development Bank has granted us a credit. In approximately 30 minutes, Economy Minister Julio Cardenas will be signing in Washington this credit for $50 million, of which $25 million will be disbursed in the next few days and the remaining $25 million will be disbursed next year. This disbursement has also come at a moment when there have been two important credits granted to FISE [Emergency Social Investment Fund] so that the presidency's social investment fund may work at full capacity next year and generate jobs, repair schools and health centers, improve sanitary systems, and build aqueducts in the interior of the country. This will be possible through a credit for $16 million and a World Bank credit of 20 or $30 million, I believe, for FISE.

This disbursement has also come at a time when Venezuela and Mexico have made disbursements for the construction of 5,000 houses, something that unfortunately had been experiencing delays. [passage indistinct]

Chamorro Speaks to Mayors on Achievements

PA1512180492 Managua Radio Nicaragua Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 15 Dec 92

[Text] President Violeta Chamorro said her administration's main achievement since she took office on 25 April 1990 has been to abolish the military draft, which caused a separation in the Nicaraguan family. The Nicaraguan president thanked the mayors for working with the presidency. She said her government respects municipal autonomy because municipalities are the pillars of her administration. Chamorro said she hopes the remainder of the U.S. aid will be received by the year's end.

[Begin Chamorro recording] Dear friends, we are [words indistinct] since we began the task of democratizing Nicaragua. It has been a difficult job for all present here

because we have put our interests aside to depoliticize Nicaragua and unite the Nicaraguan family. You have all been the pillars of my administration. Without the support of each one of the municipal councils, which you represent, we could not have attained the democratic goals we promised the Nicaraguan people during the electoral campaign. Today, we enjoy complete freedom, we have a stable currency, and above all we have abolished the military draft, which was the main cause of separations in the Nicaraguan family. [applause]

My administration respects municipal autonomy, and I am sure that when my term is up in 1996 we are going to leave behind a solid, democratic structure in each municipal council. The central government is trying to be more efficient, and the various institutions should be at the service of the poorest individuals.

I thank each one of you for the administrative honesty you have demonstrated while conducting your activities throughout the national territory, [applause] whether it be with funds received from Nicaraguan institutions, municipalities, or international assistance. [passage indistinct] municipal structure most democratic in Latin America. I thank you [word indistinct] for showing us you have been able to face regional and national political problems. You have been able to demonstrate political maturity for the benefit of your communities. We are going to encourage communication between you and the [passage indistinct].

We are a single family and a single government. We have to help Nicaragua in 1993. My government will continue to strengthen the Nicaraguan Institute of Municipal Development. I invite you to join my administration in building a united Nicaragua based on love, tolerance, and reconciliation. We are working to professionalize the National Police, and we will continue to reduce the Army according to our possibilities

Finally, [words indistinct], I want to tell you that [words indistinct] for the rest of this year, by the end of this year [words indistinct] the U.S. aid will come. We hope 1993 will be better than the year we are about to end. We hope all municipalities can work in peace and prosperity during the Christmas season. [Words indistinct] from my heart to all countries of the world [words indistinct] here in Nicaragua. Thank you to all our friends. [applause] [end recording]

Argentina

French Defense Minister Hold Talks With Gonzalez

PY1512201492 Buenos Aires Radio Nacional Network in Spanish 1500 GMT 15 Dec 92

[Text] Defense Minister Antonio Erman Gonzalez today stated that Argentina's aim at participating in NATO exercises is to have access to joint military operations and he made it clear that Argentina does not intend to join NATO.

Gonzalez made this statement after a meeting in his office with his French counterpart Pierre Joxe to discuss ways of furthering cooperation and exchange programs between the French and Argentine Armed Forces.

Gonzalez Comments on Meeting

PY1612001792 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1727 GMT 15 Dec 92

[Text] Buenos Aires, 15 Dec (TELAM)—After meeting with his French counterpart Pierre Joxe, Defense Minister Antonio Erman Gonzalez today stressed that Argentina does not intend to become a NATO member, but participate in joint actions with NATO in order to gain "access to the inter-operability of the forces."

The two ministers reviewed the UN missions and evaluated Argentina and France's logistic difficulties vis-a-vis improved joint actions.

The two-hour meeting was held at the Defense Ministry. At the meeting, the cooperation and exchange plans between the Armed Forces of the two nations were reviewed.

At the end of the meeting, Gonzalez announced that France is willing to participate in the Somalia operation, in response to an invitation extended by the United States, in order to cooperate in the establishment of peace in that African nation.

Gonzalez announced that this task will last about three months "until peace is established" and "will be financed by each one of the nations involved," although "we have still not estimated its cost."

Asked about Joxe's opinion on Argentina joining NATO, the Argentine minister responded that NATO is "reformulating its role" and made it clear that "we do not intend to become a member" of that organization.

Gonzalez made it clear that, although the Warsaw Pact has disappeared and the Soviet Union "today does not represent a threat to peace, one can see that other conflicts have arisen: Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia." He stressed: "If the Yugoslav conflict spreads, it will represent a threat to the entire region's peace."

Gonzalez announced the arrival in March of a delegation of the Scientific Institute of the French Armed Forces with the goal of reviewing the implementation of various joint projects with mutual applications and with the goal of transferring these achievements to the civilian field.

Gonzalez also confirmed the "activation" of an agreement on computer equipment for the national border police for enhanced control of migration and crime monitoring.

In conclusion, Gonzalez reported that within the next few days he will submit to the national executive branch a bill on the reform of the military justice code, a reform that was drawn up by distinguished jurists, university professors, and military auditors.

Present at the meeting were Joint Staff Chief General Mario Candido Diaz; Brigadier Jose Julia, the Air Force chief of staff; General Raul Gomez Sabaini, the Army deputy chief of staff; and Naval Materiel Director Rear Admiral Carlos Alfonso.

The meeting was also attended by Coast Guard Commander Prefect General Jorge Maggi, Border Police Commander General Jorge Suerz, and Pierre Guidoni, the French ambassador in Buenos Aires.

Afterwards, Gonzalez honored his French counterpart with a luncheon at the Foreign Ministry.

During the luncheon, the ministers discussed cooperation to maintain and improve in the Armed Forces everything concerning research in order to achieve enhanced training and a level of knowledge that will permit the Armed Forces to gain access to advanced technology, although they will not have an industrial, but a research, potential.

Transport, Trade Agreements With Chile Detailed

PY1612014892 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2217 GMT 14 Dec 92

[Text] Buenos Aires, 14 Dec (TELAM)—Argentina and Chile have agree to jointly implement a highway construction plan. Within the framework of this plan the two countries will pave and improve 12 international crossings and their access roads.

Alieto Guadagni, Argentine Foreign Ministry secretary for international economic relations, released the above information, adding that highway construction work will begin on all 12 crossings as soon as the 1993 winter season is over.

Guadagni, interviewed at the Foreign Ministry, explained that both sides decided that the following crossings should be given top priority: Jama, Sico, San Francisco, Agua Negra, Cristo Redentor, Pehuenche, Pino Hachado, Puyehue, Coihaique, Huemules, Integracion Austral, and San Sebastian.

He added that it has been decided to build an international bridge over Encuentro River, including the rehabilitation of the Cristo Redentor tunnel railroad branch to be used for hazardous cargo.

Guadagni stressed "the significance of the progress" was made in the search for integration with Chile at the end of the fourth meeting of the Administration Board of the Bilateral Economic Cooperation Agreement. The meeting took place in Buenos Aires.

Argentines and Chileans have also launched the construction of the oil pipeline that will link Puesto Hernandez in Neuquen Province and Concepcion in Chile. This pipeline will take 5 million cubic meters of Argentine oil to central Chile, worth approximately $500 million.

Gudagni also announced an agreement between Argentine and Chilean business groups interested in building a gas pipeline that would link the deposits in Neuquen Province and Chile's central region, allowing Argentina to export natural gas to Chile.

The two countries also set down the rules and regulations for the gas pipeline that will link Rio Turbio and Ultima Esperanza. This pipeline will supply Chilean gas to Patagonia.

Guadagni said that negotiations yielded positive results for joint mining projects, interconnection of power grids, and animal health programs.

The Argentine official assured journalists that "most of the obstacles to the transport of vegetable products from areas that had been declared free have been overcome," and that timetables have been established for the trading of garlic, onions, potatoes, and tomatoes.

He said that additional passenger services and schedules have been established between the two countries and economic and commercial concessions agreed upon earlier have been extended until 31 December 1994.

Guadagni concluded by stating his "satisfaction" with bilateral trade because "trade between the two countries has quadrupled since 1980," and Argentina "expects to have a surplus of approximately $150 million" in 1992.

Di Tella Welcomes OAS Charter Reform

PY1612014492 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1542 GMT 15 Dec 92

[Text] Buenos Aires, 15 Dec (NA)—Foreign Minister Guido di Tella today was "very pleased" with the OAS Charter reform, allowing the suspension of the member countries suffering coups d'etat.

The foreign minister described the OAS decision as "a huge step" and emphasized that "the Argentine proposal was very much appreciated and won by a 30-1 vote."

The proposal to include the suspension of those countries suffering a disruption in their democratic systems was submitted by the Argentine delegation in Washington yesterday and was favorably voted on by 30 of the delegations, with a single vote against the proposal by Mexico, and two abstentions.

In remarks made in Washington to a Buenos Aires radio station, Di Tella said, now "we have an OAS that is formally inseparable from democratic procedures."

Di Tella said "this is an important instrument" and noted that it is becoming "an organic international force that may have an effect, as in the Peruvian case."

Concerning Mexico's negative vote, the minister pointed out that this country claims "the proposal represents an intervention in the domestic affairs of other countries." Nevertheless, Di Tella made it clear that this "has nothing to do" with the issue because "democracy is the basic value that the OAS must champion."

Di Tella concluded: "Democratic normalization in Haiti will now be corrected by (the OAS) direct relations with the United Nations and the UN Security Council, which may implement such measures as an embargo."

Bolivia

Supreme Court Rejects U.S. Extradition Petition

PY1612023892 La Paz Television Nacional Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 16 Dec 92

[Excerpts] The Supreme Court of Justice has declared that an extradition request filed by the U.S. Embassy against Bolivian citizen Ronald Iriarte is not applicable. Consequently, Iriarte—who was detained in a Special Anti-Narcotics Force jail—has been released.

The Supreme Court of Justice has stated that as long as a bilateral extradition treaty specifically for drug trafficking crimes does not exist, no other extradition proceedings filed before the Supreme Court of Justice will be processed.

Justice Jose Becker Morales, who has heard this case in the Supreme Court of Justice, said after the plenary meeting:

[Begin Becker Morales recording] [passage omitted] We have just finished discussing the problem. We have decided to declare the petition of extradition as nonapplicable given that we cannot apply either the Vienna Agreement, much less the (1900) Law. [end recording]

Brazil

Planning, Finance Ministers Tender Resignations

PY1612172092 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1634 GMT 16 Dec 92

[Text] Brasilia, 16 Dec (EFE)—The "O Globo" television network has reported that the two Brazilian ministers who head the economic team, Paulo Haddad and

Gustavo Krause, tendered their resignations today to interim President Itamar Franco after public disagreements about economic policy.

Planning Minister Paulo Haddad and Finance Minister Gustavo Krause personally delivered their resignations to Franco during a meeting at Planalto Palace.

Haddad and Krause tried unsuccessfully to continue implementing the economic readjustment and economic opening program undertaken in 1990 by President Fernando Collor, who has been removed from power and is awaiting an impeachment process.

Franco has established that his administration's priorities are the struggle against poverty and the achievement of economic growth.

Interview With Foreign Minister Cardoso

PY1612122692 Buenos Aires PAGINA/12 in Spanish 4 Dec 92 p 16

["Exclusive" interview with Brazilian Foreign Minister Fernando Henrique Cardoso by PAGINA/12 reporter Andrea Ferrari; place and date not given]

[Text] [Ferrari] Contrary to expectations, the issue of corruption was barely touched upon during the Rio Group final declaration. In light of the impressive struggle against corruption you Brazilians have just waged, isn't this subject worth highlighting?

[Cardoso] I brought up that subject during our discussions with the foreign ministers. President Itamar Franco subsequently referred to it, and President Aylwin followed suit. The declaration includes a paragraph on ethical principles.

[Ferrari] A very brief mention. Did some countries object to it?

[Cardoso] No, absolutely not. I do not believe it is a subject that lends itself to precise phrasing, as this could hurt people's feelings. As for the Brazilian case, we do not wish to take on a haughty attitude. It happened to us, and it may happen to others. We cannot say for sure that corruption is over and done with in Brazil. We can assure you, however, that the Brazilian Government will not turn a blind eye to corruption.

[Ferrari] The cases of Peru and Venezuela seem to suggest that the trend toward democratization which has been prevalent in Latin America over the last few years may have been reversed. Do you think that trend is coming to an end?

[Cardoso] No, I do not. The previous wave of authoritarianism was part of an ideological struggle—there was an enemy, namely communism, the USSR, and so on. This was used to justify acts of violence which had no relation whatsoever with that enemy. There is nothing at present that might justify a military coup d'etat of that sort. The cases in point are quite different. With regard to Peru, it was the president himself, together with the Armed Forces, who staged the self-inflicted coup. In that country they are up against drug trafficking, and against the Shining Path, a remnant of bygone days. As far as Venezuela is concerned, there is a deterioration there of the political system, which bears no relation whatsoever with drug trafficking or subversion in the old sense. As for Haiti, the advent of democracy was an exception. They are all different cases.

[Ferrari] In Venezuela, however, the root cause of the attempted coup—which had the support of the population—can be traced to citizens' discontent with the current economic situation. Do you believe that countries such as Brazil, which are hard hit by the effects of a policy of adjustment, and are characterized by marked social differences, may be breeding grounds for similar situations?

[Cardoso] President Itamar Franco has repeatedly voiced his concern about the social situation, and his fear that there could be a social explosion. This is why we are working to meet the needs of the most neglected strata of the population. Moreover, when Brazilians took to the streets, they did so to defend democracy rather than attack it. Such were the cases of the Direct Elections Now movement, which brought together a million people in Sao Paulo to demand direct elections, and now, when people demanded the impeachment of the president.

[Ferrari] Immediately after the violent disturbances on the beaches of Rio de Janeiro, the president voiced his fear that there might be a social explosion. Can this be seen as a gauge of the situation which might presage a more serious outbreak?

[Cardoso] From the standpoint of a sociologist, I can tell you that I do not think so. The situation is different in each Brazilian state. It is in the outlying districts of large cities that the violent acts are more frequent. I do not believe that this could bring about a "domino effect" affecting the rest. Nevertheless, there is no denying the fact that we need an about-face in our social policy, which is exactly what President Itamar Franco proposes. Besides, this trend is in keeping with other changes in the world, such as the election of Bill Clinton.

[Ferrari] So you are of the opinion that economic liberalism has come to an end?

[Cardoso] What has come to an end is the naive liberalism. We see that even the United States has levied a 50 percent tariff on steel, with the excuse that they were correcting dumping or subsidies which are in fact nonexistent. As for France, I had better not say anything. What has come to an end is naive liberalism, an old-fashioned myth, which at one time the media adopted as the bulwark of modernism.

[Ferrari] Itamar Franco's economic and social program will apparently be disclosed after the vote by the Senate

which will most probably remove President Collor from his post. Can important changes be expected after that?

[Cardoso] I do not know about cabinet changes, as that is the president's affair. I think there will be a clearer political and economic line. If the fiscal reform is approved, I think 1993 will be a very fruitful year, because for the first time in a long time the government will be able to catch its breath and increase its revenues. I am more optimistic about 1993. I think the government was cornered, as in a boxing ring. It is now coming out of the corner—especially if we have the conditions to combat tax evasion. A Senate study showed that tax evasion has increased to 50 percent. If we improve the collecting apparatus, the government will greatly increase its resources. Brazil has a very diversified economy, and it is very powerful. Our industry has a competitive capacity, it has been modernized, and there is no stagnation as stated by some media. A U.S. economist has carried out a study demonstrating that the prevailing concepts do not allow the people to perceive the good things that are going on in the world. In Latin America we have a bit of an obsession with regarding everything from a tragic point of view. I think if we attain this fiscal reform, make the correct investment decisions, especially in the field of technology, and if we further take care of the social issue, we may obtain good results. This is valid for both Brazil and Argentina, and for other countries of the region.

[Ferrari] Trade relations between Brazil and Argentina are currently going through a difficult period, which has dimmed the efforts of Mercosur [Common Market of the South].

[Cardoso] No, I do not see it that way. I think it is a very rich moment. Argentina also sees it this way. It is true that there currently exist differences. Brazil is exporting much more to Argentina. A year ago it was the other way around, and we had a large deficit.

[Ferrari] But given the latest trade measures adopted by [Argentine Economy and Public Works Minister] Cavallo, the situation does not seem to be as clear. There is great concern among Argentine industrialists...

[Cardoso] It is a temporary situation. In Brazil we must adopt measures to correct the imbalances. We must import more oil, more wheat flour, reach agreements in the automotive field.... There is yet another important point: the joint ventures [preceding two words in English]. I spoke with people from southern Brazil who are having difficulties competing with agricultural products. They made investments here: What they lose there, they gain here. That is integration; you cannot think in static terms. We must undertake joint ventures. In whatever field there may be great comparative disadvantages; capital must move to either one or the other country. The two economies are expanding. It is not a tragedy; it is a temporary issue. Relations with Argentina are essential for our administration.

[Ferrari] How did Brazil react to the increase in import tariffs imposed by Argentina?

[Cardoso] I liked very much the way Cavallo and [Argentine Foreign Minister] Di Tella managed the increase in the rate. I knew about the measure beforehand, and asked them to explain it to our ministers. Although those were difficult days, they went over there to avoid a misunderstanding. I think they did it in an appropriate manner. Sometimes Cavallo says the Brazilian economy is not adjusted.... Well, we must each say certain things to our voters. We do not consider that he is blaming us; we understand him. He knows, just as we do, that things are not like that. In general I think they acted correctly, and as they made the adjustment, which was necessary, they made an effort to make it nondiscriminatory.

Franco To Propose Regional Trade Agreement

PY1512231792 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 15 Dec 92 p 25

[Text] During the upcoming meeting of the Latin American Integration Association [ALADI] that will be held on 29 December in Uruguay, President Itamar Franco is going to propose that in 1993 a trade agreement be implemented with the Amazon Basin countries. The Merconorte [expansion unknown], as it is being called by diplomats, will have the same structure as the Mercosur [Common Market of the South].

Antonio Cerquiera Antunes, ALADI's future secretary general, said that "we do not yet know the details of the president's proposal, but it is a part of the Uruguay Treaty that seeks the trade unity of the continent. This agreement will be important for the competitiveness of the countries because it will place Latin America within reach of the more developed markets."

According to Ambassador Cerqueira Antunes, the proposal has been well accepted by the Amazon Basin countries and there will be no problem in reaching an agreement. The ALADI is made up of the 11 South American countries and Mexico. These countries have 400 million inhabitants, a total GDP of $800 billion, and their exports amount to $110 billion.

Franco on Postponement of IMF, World Bank Visit

PY1512223192 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 15 Dec 92 Economy and Business Section p 1

[Article by correspondent Paulo Sotero]

[Text] Washington — Acting President Itamar Franco last week sent a personal message to the directors of international financial organizations to explain the reasons for postponing the visit that the economic area ministers had planned to make at the beginning of the month.

Franco indicated that Brazil wishes to continue to work within a spirit of cooperation with the IMF, World Bank,

and Inter-American Development Bank, and he stated that his government will resume formal high-level contact with the three institutions after Congress approves the executive branch's fiscal reform. Franco's gesture was well received in Washington.

Franco Halts Companies Privatization Schedule

PY1512231592 Brasilia Voz do Brasil Network in Portuguese 2100 GMT 15 Dec 92

[Report by Luiz Augusto Mendonca from Planalto Palace]

[Text] The government today announced that the National Privatization Program will be reevaluated and has postponed for the first half of 1993 the auction of state-run companies scheduled for this year and early January. This decision involves the CSN [National Iron and Steel Company], the Ultrafertil company, the Uniao petrochemical company, and the Poliofelinas company.

The CSN auction, scheduled for 22 December, has been postponed until 5 March. The Poliofelinas company auction, scheduled for 18 December, will be held on 19 March. The Uniao petrochemical company auction, scheduled for 1 January, will be held on 26 March. The Ultrafertil company auction, which was suspended to reevaluate the state-run company, has been scheduled for 12 April.

This afternoon, interim President Itamar Franco met with the mines and energy and labor ministers and with Consultant General Jose de Castro Ferreira. A decision was made to postpone the auctions. It was also agreed that the companies that will be privatized will have different edicts, that is, will be studied individually.

In addition, the national commission responsible for the privatization program has been reformed and has received a five-day deadline to present new rules.

Interim President Itamar Franco also ordered a report that the National Privatization Program is irrevocable and that the current reevaluation's goal is to preserve the Brazilian people's patrimony.

State Companies Owe $8.7 Billion to Government

PY1512121092 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 14 Dec 92 p 15

[Article by Sergio Leo]

[Text] Brasilia—According to a document prepared by the Finance and Planning Ministries, and obtained exclusively by O GLOBO, the state companies' overdue debt to Federal Revenues and Social Security totals $8.7 billion (113 trillion cruzeiros). The amount of unpaid taxes and contributions owed by state companies is equivalent to two-thirds of the $12 billion the government intends to collect with its new fiscal reform project, which currently is being debated in Congress and represents only a small part of government companies' foreign and internal debts, which amount to $93.4 billion—or 1.2 quadrillion cruzeiros, 215 trillion of which is already overdue.

The survey of state companies' debts, inherited from previous governments, is part of the documents prepared by the economic team to guide discussions on short-term government guidelines, which will be discussed on 18 December at a ministerial meeting with President Itamar Franco.

One of the documents prepared by the Finance and Planning Ministries for the meetings scheduled for 18-19 December states that "the great indebtedness and the repeated failures to meet those debt commitments are limiting the maneuvering possibilities for the economic policy." The document also refers to the $25.8 billion the states and municipalities owe the federal government and their state companies.

Among the measures to be adopted to reduce those bad debts are prohibition against refinancing debts, permission to decree bankruptcy, the composition of creditors of state companies (which already was included in the fiscal reform package that will be voted on in Congress), and a new round of debt renegotiations, with the reorganization of the auditing and control system.

Discounting what must be received from the government itself, other state companies, and state and municipal governments, the state companies' debt is still sky-high: $36.2 billion, or 470.6 trillion cruzeiros. The greatest problem is focused on electricity companies and the Itaipu binational group, which together account for 64 percent of all state companies' debts.

Chile

Judge Turns Over Phone-Tapping Case to Military

PY1612023492 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Imagen Internacional in Spanish 2330 GMT 15 Dec 92

[Text] The phone-tapping case, quite likely the most important news in the country this year, took a new and controversial turn today: Trial Judge Alberto Chaigneau concluded his investigation and issued a ruling. He asked that Deputy Evelyn Matthei be stripped of her congressional immunity and formally charged an Army officer, lawyer Ricardo Claro, and National Renewal [RN] activist Francisco Ignacio Ossa.

[Begin recording] [Reporter Mario Aguilera] A recording of Senator Sebastian Pinera's telephone conversation was released on 26 August this year. Just five days later Judge Alberto Chaigneau was appointed to investigate the case. Following an investigation that lasted four months, Judge Chaigneau disqualified himself and turned the case over to the military courts. In his ruling he also asked that Deputy Evelyn Matthei be stripped of her congressional immunity and formally charged Captain Fernando Diez as the perpetrator of a crime under

the telecommunications law. He also charged as accomplices Francisco Ignacio Ossa, an RN activist and a member of Evelyn Matthei's campaign staff, and Ricardo Claro, a businessman and chairman of the board of the Megavision television channel.

The impending outcome of the investigation prompted much activity at the Justice Palace, especially in Judge Chaigneau's office, where lawyers for both defendants and plaintiffs had gathered. Shortly after midday, Evelyn Matthei's legal representative Alberto Rios announced that the judge had asked that Matthei be stripped of congressional immunity.

[Alberto Rios] The judge has already asked that Deputy Evelyn Matthei be stripped of her congressional immunity.

[Aguilera] The judge himself confirmed his ruling shortly afterward. Although he refused to provide details, he said that he was satisfied with the results of his investigation.

[Chaigneau] All I can tell you is that as far as I am concerned the investigation has been concluded.

[Unidentified reporter] Are you satisfied with the results, Judge?

[Chaigneau] I am satisfied.

[Aguilera] RN lawyer Nelson Contador released the text of Judge Chaigneau's ruling and the charges against the defendants.

[Contador] They are charged with illegal monitoring and tapping of telecommunications.

[Aguilera] A plenary session of the court of appeals will have to rule on the request for the stripping of Evelyn Matthei's congressional immunity. Should the judge's petition be accepted, the deputy may be tried as an accomplice. [end recording]

Aylwin Reaffirms Decision Not To Seek Reelection

PY1512141692 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 15 Dec 92

[Text] During an interview on the anniversary of his third year in power, President Patricio Aylwin, who was accompanied by his entire cabinet, voiced his willingness to help the Coalition of Parties for Democracy [CPPD] reach an agreement that will allow it to run in the upcoming presidential elections with a single candidate and slate of congressional candidates.

Aylwin reiterated that he will not run for reelection and that he is not alarmed about the presidential campaign's early start, as long as it is carried out within the framework of respect and in a responsible manner:

[Begin recording] I have confidence that with their sense of responsibility, talent, and generosity the leaders will solve the problem themselves. I do not think I should mediate but I will do my share to help the political leaders reach an agreement if they ask me. [end recording]

At the news conference during which he assessed the first three years of his government, Aylwin also asserted that he will continue to exercise his power to pardon. In response to those who criticize him for pardoning individuals sentenced for terrorist actions, Aylwin said that he will continue to act as he has done so far, conscientiously and carefully assessing each case brought to him:

[Begin recording] I will continue to act as I have always done. I will assess each case brought to me. There are currently only 23 prisoners in Chile charged with political crimes committed under the previous regime. Once their final sentence has been passed and the requests for pardon are submitted to me, I will assess them separately; I will assess the circumstances of each case, the crime committed by the individual submitting the request, his willingness to again join society and abandon acts of violence, the confidence he merits in this regard, the portion of his sentence fulfilled, and, according to that, I will conscientiously decide whether to reduce or change his sentence, to pardon him, or simply reject the request. [end recording]

Aylwin added that the opposition itself had granted him the power to pardon as a means to get rid of the problem after refusing the so-called Cumplido Law that allowed offering justice in those cases in which arrested individuals already had spent many years in prison, some of them without even being sentenced.

Aylwin also referred to the role played by the Armed Forces during the past few years, noting that they had been loyal to the constitutional mandate and to their pledge, thus resuming their duties in a more effective manner.

He also noted the willingness of Chilean businessmen to help solve the poverty problem, although he noted that a lot more remains to be done.

Changing subjects, Aylwin mentioned that subjects such as political espionage are worrisome issues but added that he has confidence that the people's reactions to this incident will be a sign of alert to those who are engaged in politics.

After noting that the country lives in freedom, he said the economy is growing, a climate of social peace prevails, and public security has improved. Aylwin added that the government has reasons to be happy and look toward the future with confidence.

He ended by noting that the most difficult subject to handle has been the violation of human rights and the need to clarify these cases. Paradoxically speaking, he commented that one of the things that brought the most satisfaction was the performance, in a climate of anguish, of the Rettig Commission and the fact that the country became aware of the problem's magnitude.

UDI Urges More Aggressive Protest to Spain

PY1512201692 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 15 Dec 92

[Excerpts] The Independent Democratic Union [UDI] has charged the Spanish Government with negligence, and holds it responsible for the fleeing of Sergio Olea Gaona, a suspect in the murder of Senator Jaime Guzman.

This comment was made by Deputy Andres Chadwick who, together with other UDI leaders, met with Interior Minister Enrique Krauss to request that the Chilean Government act and protest against this situation more aggressively.

[Begin Chadwick recording] We believe the protest yesterday by the Foreign Ministry is insufficient. We want the Chilean Government to lodge a more energetic and strong protest. It is not enough to just point out this situation; a much more energetic protest is necessary through the appropriate diplomatic and political channels, because Chile's honor is at stake. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Chadwick disclosed that the government is awaiting the Spanish Government's answer to its protest, and that based on Spain's response it will take action regarding UDI's request.

Chadwick added that so far only informal contact has been maintained and that the Spanish Government has not officially delivered to Chile the background and information on the circumstances under which Olea Gaona fled. [passage omitted]

During the meeting with Krauss, the UDI leaders were officially informed about the Spanish court's decision to authorize Olea Gaona's extradition.

Colombia

U.S. Army Weapons, Antitank Missiles Confiscated

PA1612155292 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1630 GMT 15 Dec 92

[Report by Marcela Duran]

[Text] Huge amounts of weapons have been confiscated in Santa Fe de Bogota in the past few hours. Antitank missiles and other types of weapons are now in the hands of the authorities. A large international weapons network has been dismantled by the National Police in the past few hours.

On the highway between Ipiales and Pasto, in the southern part of the country, two passengers in a Chevrolet van were arrested. Police found nine antitank missiles and 13,000 cartridges for AK-47 and R-15 rifles hidden in the vehicle's front fender and in the driver's seat.

According to investigations conducted by the Judicial and Investigative Police Directorate, the missiles belong to the U.S. Army. Once they are programmed, the missiles follow their targets until they hit them at a speed of 144 meters per second. They can penetrate vehicles and even armored tanks. The confiscated cartridges are also for the official use of the U.S. Armed Forces.

Colombia has become a primary weapons purchaser. Guerrillas and drug traffickers are buying rockets, rifles, and explosives on the Central American black market.

According to the investigations, the weapons are bought in El Salvador and Nicaragua, then shipped to Ecuador by sea. From there the weapons are transferred to Pasto by land, from where they are distributed to buyers throughout the country.

The weapons that were confiscated on 15 December were going to be used by subversive groups operating in Cauca. A network of foreign salesmen, who cater to the best bidders, operate in cities such as Santa Fe de Bogota, Cali, and Medellin. A rocket may cost up to 3 million pesos on the black market. The weapons are disassembled before they are transported to make their identification more difficult. In the past few years, gunrunning activities have become as profitable a business as drug trafficking.

In the past 24 months the National Police have confiscated 277 rifles and more than 5 tons of explosives that entered the country illegally and were going to be used by subversive and drug trafficking groups.

8 Policemen Injured in Attack; 15 Bombs Defused

PA1612135092 Santa Fe de Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 16 Dec 92

[Text] Cucuta, Norte de Santander Department—Police sources said that as part of the combing operation begun immediately following the terrorist attack perpetrated in the early morning hours of 16 December on the Cucuta Police Precinct, the bomb squad found and defused a total of 15 bombs. According to a police spokesman, six bombs were found in various parts of the new national model jail in Los Rios area. Nine more bombs were found in various areas of the city. The spokesman also stated that Governor Alvaro Salgar and the region's top military commanders are inspecting the scene of the attack. Eight policeman and two civilians were injured in the attack, which caused over 2 billion pesos in damage.

Car Bomb Kills 3, Wounds 3 in Medellin

PA1612164192 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 2300 GMT 15 Dec 92

[Report by Maribel Osorio]

[Text] A car bomb in Medellin, Antioquia Department, was meant for a police patrol that was on its way to investigate a reported car theft between 70th and 80th Avenues. The policemen left their vehicle long before

reaching the site and the terrorists activated the explosive charge as a green Toyota car, confused from afar with a military vehicle, drove by. The car's occupants, Joel and his sister Aida Zuluaga, died inside the car in a brutal expression of violence. A third victim, veterinarian Rodrigo Morales, died at the Municipal Health Clinic. All that remained of the car were the license plate and the engine, identifying it as a blue Renault. Two women and one child, members of the same family who live nearby, were wounded. Early on the morning of 15 December, elite police units located 350 kg of dynamite hidden on a farm abandoned months ago. The farm, located in the Primavera area, 10 km from Caldas Municipality, was the site of a kidnapping early this year. It has been deserted since then. Citizens reported the existence of several dynamite caches. The elite units found two drums containing the explosive material hidden underground in the area around the farm. According to official data, the farm belongs to a man known as El Titi.

* Cost of Counterinsurgency War Discussed

93SM0086A Santa Fe de Bogota EL ESPECTADOR in Spanish 15 Nov 92 p 1B

[Article by Alberto Martinez M.: "Open Ended Budget!"]

[Text] To finance the war against subversion, the government has been forced to increase the national budget.

The Directorate General of the Budget has specific instructions to "draw on" all unused budget categories, that is, those for which funds were appropriated for a given type of expenditure or specific investment but which were not used by the respective government body.

State enterprises or offices which have an excess of liquid funds will be required to redirect them to the new, war economy.

Furthermore, within the government an internal debate is taking place on the use of royalties. Although the president has announced that he is prepared to administer the resources which government departments and municipalities receive from the exploitation of natural resources, there is still not much legal clarity about what use may be made of these funds.

In principle consideration has been given to taking over these resources as a loan and then distributing them to the regions, according to the investment priorities which legislative assemblies and municipal councils determine. However, this possible way of handling the funds is only a proposal at this point.

In any case the official objective is that Colombia will spend about 1.0 billion Colombian pesos per day during the remaining part of 1992 to fight against the various groups using violence. According to the plan, the following Army units will be set up with these funds: 17 infantry companies, a mobile brigade, and six battalions. As far as the Police are concerned, the detailed actions to be taken will be determined this week.

Pedro Nel Ospina, the director of the budget, said that the reinforcements were originally scheduled to be organized during the last half of 1993. However, in view of the internal threat and the declaration by the president, it is planned to activate 363 them sooner. The problem has been the lack of budget resources.

There will be fewer problems in 1993, since there is a budget allocation of 317,911 million pesos for "public order and security" alone and 518,478 million pesos for the appropriation called "national defense."

Although the budget was prepared before President Cesar Gaviria announced his offensive against groups using violence, the country will spend an average of 2,292 million pesos daily in 1993 on investigating, pursuing, and fighting against groups which have risen up in arms against the government (including guerrilla groups, narcotics traffickers, and those involved in common crime).

Other Wars

There have been three periods of high military expenditures in the history of Colombia: the war with Peru, the critical period of the 1950's, and the period when the Mirage fighter aircraft were purchased (at the beginning of the 1970's).

The most recent period of urgent military expenditure goes back to 1987 when the National Political, Economic, and Social Council [CONPES] approved two extraordinary authorizations for entering into foreign loans. The first of them, for $64.4 million, was to finance an emergency plan by the military forces to control what CONPES called problems of public order and threats against national sovereignty. The second loan was authorized in connection with incidents in the Golf of Coquivacoa and enabled the authorities to finance, with a loan of $513 million, the acquisition of "equipment and supplies to make it possible to dissuade, throw back, and/or destroy any external threat against the vital interests of the nation."

From then on budgetary expenditures for defense and security purposes were concentrated on the acquisition of fighter aircraft, submarines, and corvettes, and domestic security problems were neglected. To the extent that CONPES Memorandum 2509 of 13 February 1991 stated: "Despite the effort during previous administrations to provide resources for national defense, public order problems continue causing major economic and social destruction."

Experts attribute to this same reason the decision by multinational corporations to negotiate directly with the guerrilla movements to obtain some form of protection, an action which President Gaviria himself denounced. A political analyst said: "From a practical point of view it was absurd to provide resources to the military forces,

when the ELN [Army of National Liberation] and the FARC [Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia] continued kidnapping people and blowing up oil pipelines."

The situation has changed, according to the director of the budget, who has said: "At present the emphasis is on internal security." In effect, during fiscal year 1991-1992 the budgets for the Army and the Police were increased by 50 and 46 percent, respectively. During fiscal year 1992-1993 the Police will have 41 percent more funds, while the Army will have a 32 percent budget increase.

The attitude of the multinational companies is different. Shell announced last week the establishment of a solidarity fund for the widows of police officers in the Putumayo area. In the United States David Harding, the British Petroleum director for Latin America, spoke of Colombia as "a great country to invest in."

Moving Quickly

The supplementary resources provided are for specific purposes: salaries, uniforms, additional personnel, gasoline, and communications equipment.

The resources which are being withdrawn from government bodies unable to carry out budgeted expenditures will amount to about 30 billion Colombian pesos, enough to activate the counterguerrilla brigades and battalions.

Next week decrees will be issued providing for reprogramming these funds, which will basically cover operations during the last 45 days of 1992.

However, the war will not stop, to judge from the government's plans and expenditures.

Of the 2,292 million pesos which will be spent each day, 1,436 million will cover so-called "personnel services," that is, salaries, allowances, and per diem for uniformed personnel. Another 441 million pesos per day will be used to provide fuel for highway equipment, helicopters, and fast patrol boats.

The money for these purposes will come from three sources: foreign loans, taxes, and direct contributions from the private sector.

The only war tax, which will be collected over the next four years from petroleum, coal, and emerald and gold mining companies, among other enterprises, will bring in between 60 and 80 billion pesos annually.

* Hommes Answers Critics of 1993 Budget Proposal

93SM0069A Santa Fe de Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 6 Nov 92 p 4-A

[Commentary by Finance Minister Rudolf Hommes: "Transparency of the 1993 Budget"]

[Text] A debate on the 1993 National General Budget has arisen. Its fervor, and the conflicts it has generated within the political community, have fostered mistaken ideas. Consequently, it is necessary to enlighten public opinion on the management of the budget. I want to concentrate on two points: First, the budget's legality; and second, the distribution of public spending and its size for 1993. On the first of these topics, the government has introduced an extensive study for consideration by the Chamber and Senate, and it has been ignored by the media commentators. As for the expense portion of the proposed budget, the government has expounded its position in many forums, but its arguments and explanations have also not been brought before the public. For this reason, it is desirable to again discuss these points.

As is amply known, the 1991 Constitution embodies profound reforms with respect to planning and the budget. It strengthens the constitutional basis of planning as an instrument for the conduct of the business of government, and even though its introduction into the constitutional framework is not innovative, it provides planning with a more solid institutional base. In this respect, the Constitution provides that the Development Plan, and, more specifically, the part corresponding to the Public Investments Plan, shall be the focal point for the preparation of the annual budget bill. It also provides for more extensive participation by the regional administrations, and by the National Planning Council as a consulting agency, in the preparation of the plan.

Nonexistence of a Development Plan

The Constitution provides in very precise terms for the submittal, debate, and approval of the Investment Plan. It allows a new government no more than six months, after it comes into power, in which to submit the mentioned plan to the Congress, and three additional months for its study by the Congress. This government was already almost a year old when the Constitution was approved, and was therefore unable to comply with these terms. In the circumstances, the Constituent Assembly issued transitional rules authorizing the government to implement the 1992 budget, subject to prior approval by the Special Legislative Committee, without subjecting it to enactment of the Investment Plan Law.

In the case of the 1993, 1994, and 1995 budgets, no transitional rule was provided for, and the text of the Constitution does not state explicitly how the administration is to deal with the budget in the absence of the Development Plan. What emerges with all clarity from a careful study of the norms stipulated by the Constitution, and as understood by the Council of State, is that during this transition period there is no possibility of presenting the plan under the new terms. Therefore, the budget cannot be premised on it.

The absence of an explicit constitutional procedure for effecting the transition, however, cannot be taken as grounds for a conclusion that this government has distanced itself from planning as the guiding principle of action by the state. On the contrary, the government has operated on the basis of planning, and has adopted the

Development Plan titled "The Pacific Revolution" as the guiding document of its economic policy. In addition, CONPES [Council for Economic and Social Development] has approved an Operational Plan of Investment for each year that is compatible with the Development Plan. These are the documents that have served as the basis for the preparation of the 1992 and 1993 budgets.

Thus, although the plan cannot exist in the juridical form stipulated by the Constitution until the next presidential term, this government has complied with the real aim of the Constitution with respect to the planning function. That aim is that there be a material linkage between the budget and the planning.

Organic Budget Law

The second juridical point refers to the status of the Organic Budget Law. The critics seek to have the public believe that this law is no longer in force. On the contrary, the Constitutional Court has handed down two verdicts over the past few months in which it has stated that Law 38 of 1989 is still in force, and that most of its principles are fully enforceable under the Constitution of 1991. It is therefore binding upon the Congress as well as upon the government to comply with that law and consequently to subject the debate and enactment of the budget to that law. And this was done in the case of the 1993 Budget Law.

Size of the Budget and Social Spending

In the economic debate on the budget, its size, the ratio of investment to operational expenses, and the size of social spending, received the most attention. Following are the details necessary to clarify the significance of the budget figures in the public's mind.

The 1993 budget totals $11.38 billion [U.S. and hereinafter: trillion] pesos, 13 percent of which are devoted to personnel services, 6.5 percent to general expenses, 34.7 percent to transfer payments, 19.6 percent to debt service, and 23.8 percent to investment. The preponderance of the transfer payments sector of the budget, its largest rubric, warrants mention. This chapter details the transfers of current national revenues to the municipalities, totaling 630 billion pesetas; transfer payments to the provincial governments for health and education, totaling 1.1 trillion pesos; and reserves for the payment of social security and civil service pensions, totaling 1.7 trillion pesos.

Subtracting these expenses, which for the most part represent local investment and social spending, it is noted that actual governmental operating expenses come to only 26.8 percent of the budget. But even this figure is misleading, since it includes the pay and expenses of teachers and health care personnel, who are erroneously classified as part of the bureaucracy, when in reality they comprise a capital investment in human resources. The same treatment is accorded to the pay and expenses of judges, the police, and the Armed Forces, at a time when the majority of Colombians deem this spending an unavoidable investment to ensure the economic and social development of the country.

When the budget is analyzed in this light, it is evident that the arguments claiming excessive spending on operation of the government lack substance, and that the margin of maneuver left to the government, for reducing these costs and increasing fiscal and social investment, is limited for the near term.

Nevertheless, it is worth pointing out that, for 1993, 38.6-percent of the budget is allocated to social spending, up 7.3 percent over 1992. This is in keeping with the guidelines laid down by the Constitution. Although the thinking in Congress is that this spending should be greater, the country's financial realities do not permit us to be more ambitious than this in 1993, without compromising our macroeconomic stability. With the budget totals we have submitted, the government is conforming to the objectives set by the Development Plan. Furthermore, over the past two years, spending has been increased on domestic security and justice. These are an unquestionable priority, and they limit the availability of funds for other purposes.

Global Appropriations

A final point has to do with the existence of budgetary allocations that require desegregation in the course of implementation of the budget. First of all, it needs to be pointed out that there is no legal prohibition against creating these appropriations. Neither 1989 Law 38 nor the decrees made under that law prohibit it. On the contrary, in some cases they support it. The programs to which these appropriations refer are of two types. First of all, there are global appropriations in which it is impossible to determine the end beneficiaries. This category includes court rulings against the nation, the payment of CERT's [Tax Reimbursement Certificates], energy consumption subsidies, school credits, etc. In all cases, clear-cut regulations exist governing access to these funds and the operating procedures that must be followed by the agencies administering these funds.

The second type of global appropriations are those that require agreements between the public-sector entities and the municipal or departmental administrations for their implementation. This is the case of funds for implementation of the Forestry Development Plan, funds for cofinancing aqueducts and sewage systems, the PNR [National Rehabilitation Plan], the DRI [Integrated Rural Development Program], the Contingency and Solidarity of the Presidency Fund, etc. It is impossible to specify in advance the final distribution of these funds, since this will depend on specific agreements between the central government and the regional agencies. These agreements will govern their use in specified projects.

In any case, I should like to point out that the government has not, at any time, spent these funds unbeknownst to the Congress or to public opinion. The

Congress and the budget oversight and control agencies such as the Controller General of the Republic and the Office of the Attorney General, by constitutional mandate, and the public in general, can demand that the executive branch render an accounting on how it uses these funds. The government is at all times ready to explain all its actions in budgetary and financial matters, in the interest of promoting informed public opinion.

Ecuador

Defense Minister Admits Presence of U.S. Troops

PA1612034392 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 2200 GMT 15 Dec 92

[Text] Ecuadoran Defense Minister Jose Gallardo has admitted that there are U.S. troops in Amazonian territory. He maintains that they are involved in a U.S. technical cooperation program against drugs:

[Begin Gallardo recording] There are international agreements—some of which were even reached at the UN and OAS level—to combat the very serious scourge of drug trafficking that is such a burden to everyone. Currently, there is a small group of U.S. troops participating in this activity. They operate two helicopters that allow them to detect drug trafficking activities any time of day, even when it is dark and foggy, using precision equipment. [end recording]

In statements to Voz de los Andes, Gallardo added that a number of Ecuadoran Armed Forces troops are also participating in the effort. He insisted that the counternarcotics operation will continue in Ecuador.

Paraguay

Ambassador to Japan Resigns Amid Charges of Fraud

PY1512202092 Asuncion NOTICIAS in Spanish 15 Dec 92 p 20

[Text] Fernando Constantini, Paraguayan ambassador to Japan and the official in charge of the General Consulate in Tokyo, has resigned his diplomatic post. His resignation will be considered by President Andres Rodriguez. No information has yet been released on the decisions to be made on the serious malfeasance charges pressed against Constantini, such as the disproportionate fees on consular bills and consular certifications. Documents proving these irregularities were gathered during an inquiry and internal audit. It is estimated that irregularities yielded more than $1 million. Constantini has been ambassador since 1989. The appropriate measures to be adopted in order to clarify the charges may even include prosecuting Constantini, and sending the case folder to the regular criminal courts through the attorney general.

It has been said that charges may be pressed against Contantini and against those who are found responsible for crimes of extortion, illegal acquisition of wealth, fraud against the state, abusing the functions of a tax collector, and improper collection of nonexistent fees.

Official Report

Asked about the issue, Vice Foreign Minister Oscar Cabello Sarubbi said yesterday that he met with Ambassador Constantini last Friday, and that during the meeting the latter submitted his resignation. Cabello added: "I should also report that an audit was made and that based on the results a decree will be issued and submitted to the executive branch for consideration."

Asked about the prosecution initiated for the alleged fraud against the state, Cabello declined to respond, claiming that the issue is not within his jurisdiction. He said that all background information will be submitted for consideration to the foreign minister and the president, who will make the appropriate decision.

Asuncion For All To Support National Encounter

PY1412204092 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 14 Dec 92 p 6

[Excerpt] More than 300 delegates yesterday participated in the Asuncion For All [APT] movement special assembly, held at the former Paris Movie Theatre. The only topic discussed was that of an electoral alliance for the general elections to be held in May 1993. The majority of the delegates agreed to support the movement headed by Guillermo Caballero Vargas [National Encounter—EN].

During the long debate preceding the decision, two positions could be clearly discerned. On the one hand a large number of delegates expressed their support for an alliance with EN, while on the other hand several proposed creating a separate list of APT congressional candidates while the alliances with other national democratic forces are still in force.

The proposal to enter into an alliance with the EN was finally approved, but with a specific recommendation that APT leaders, or those who are conducting the negotiations, not dilute the APT's image, and not simply support the EN, but consider it a coalition or alliance between two different opposition forces. [passage omitted]

Venezuela

Perez Denies AD Requested Economic Change

PA1512152092 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 2350 GMT 14 Dec 92

[Text] President Carlos Andres Perez denied the Democratic Action [AD] Party has requested a change in the government's economic program. He made the denial after delivering his end of the year message to the troops based in Puerto Cabello.

[Begin Perez recording] I have not received any request nor would the AD party make such a request, because it would result in disaster. Perhaps it was a politician who mentioned such a thing. The political parties here, unfortunately, have lost a lot of their internal consolidation. That is why there are so many dissident voices on this topic. Although I am not engaged in party politics, I am an AD member and I believe the AD party has demonstrated its strength. Although it did not make specific gains in the elections, it won almost half of the mayoral posts in the country. It won eight state governorships and half of the council positions of the country. One cannot consider, therefore, that a party that achieves such victories is in a poor situation. This is democracy. There is defeat on the part of one party and victory on the part of another. In the last elections I won the presidency, but the party did not win in the Congress. We continue, however, to have a strong presence in Venezuela. [end recording]

Jimenez Comments on Aftermath of Abortive Coup

PM1512143592 Madrid ABC in Spanish 6 Dec 92 p 44

[Interview with Defense Minister General Ivan Jimenez Sanchez by Mauricio Hernandez in Caracas; date not given]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Hernandez] How is it possible that there should be another attempted coup if it was known that it was being prepared two months in advance?

[Jimenez] If this had been known about, it would not have happened. We were following up isolated reports which did not enable us to bring anybody before a court, because in a rule-of-law state like ours, sufficient evidence is needed for a trial. Over the past few months we adopted several measures, such as expelling from the Armed Forces some officers convicted of conspiricy by a military investigating council. This was the case with Lieutenant Colonel Madrid Bustamante, whom we discharged one and one-half months ago and who was the very first man we detained in the early morning on the day of the coup, when he was trying to incite to the Villaporta Battalion into rebellion here at Fort Tiuna. We were trailing several military personnel, but we did not have all the names. If we had had them, we would have prevented the rebellion. No human being could allow a city like Caracas to be bombed, knowing it in advance.

[Hernandez] There are many who do not rule out a third coup in Venezuela. What is your opinion?

[Jimenez] I not not know what grounds they have for saying that, but I can tell you that it would be extremely deplorable. Venezuela has been beaten and wounded enough already. I believe that instead of talking about another coup and more violence, all Venezuelans should sit down and see how we can emerge from this crisis, and we should all start to give up something—certain privileges, positions, and amenities—in order to struggle united for the country. But these thoughtless men who want power at any price are leading the country to destruction. Countries are run not through coups or violence but through dialogue, tolerance, and understanding. However, we have had rumors of every kind since 27 November.

[Hernandez] Should you not start with an understanding within the Armed Forces themselves?

[Jimenez] It exists, although there are a few within the group of Armed Forces officers who staged last Friday's events but who wished to achieve personal goals—not to offer the country solutions. So far we have seen no serious document which could explain to us how the rebels were going to overcome the crisis. What we must not do is to continue to create this hatred which is growing among the Venezuelan people; this is an industrious country which is capable of finding formulas for understanding. While the bombs were falling Friday, people were working.

[Hernandez] The trials of the putschists have already begun. What awaits them?

[Jimenez] This will be decided by the interim court martial. What I can tell you is that we will study this on a case by case basis, and everybody who was involved will be tried and those who are unconnected with the rebellion will be released.

[Hernandez] Do rebellious groups such as the Bolivarian Revolutionary Movement remain within the Armed Forces?

[Jimenez] I cannot reply right now, because we are not certain that it has been broken up, but neither can we say that we have them within the barracks.

[Hernandez] Is an end to the subversion near?

[Jimenez] We will continue to combat the subversion for the present.

[Hernandez] What percentage of the Armed Forces took part in this latest attempted coup?

[Jimenez] One percent, which is a very low percentage, but it must be borne in mind that the Air Force, which achieves its effect not through personnel but through the aircraft's destructive capability, took part.

[Hernandez] If 1 percent did what they did, what would have happened if the percentage had been higher? Is that possibility ruled out?

[Jimenez] If more members of the Armed Forces had taken part in the actions of Friday, 27 November, it would have been a disaster, a tragedy. I do not even wish to think about what could have happened.

[Hernandez] Is there corruption within the Armed Forces?

[Jimenez] This is one of the most severe attacks the Armed Forces have sustained. There can be no corruption within an institution which is the first to investigate and punish the culprits. We cannot accept its being blithely said that there is corruption within our Armed Forces because somebody, through lack of knowledge or thoughtlessness, has harmed an asset of the nation or acted wrongly.

[Hernandez] What has been the people's response to the putschists? Do you believe that the "charismatic" image of Colonel Chavez (putschist leader) has ended?

[Jimenez] One of total rejection on the part of the population and of the Armed Forces. With respect to Chavez, what I have been able to hear and the intelligence summaries I have been given tell me that he has waned considerably.

[Hernandez] Does it not seem to you contradictory that the Air Force, which defended democracy in February, should lead November's attempted coup?

[Jimenez] Many people do not know how the Armed Forces operate, and others do not understand that it was a very small part of the Air Force which rebelled. It is the paratroopers who rebelled 4 February, and it is the paratroopers who have now retaken the Libertador base, which was where the 27 November putschists were dug in. This shows that it is not the institutions which fail but the people who control those institutions at a given time.

[Hernandez] How would you sum up the causes of putschism in Venezuela?

[Jimenez] In the first place, the economic crisis which we have; second, the information and counterinformation war which has broken out in the country; and, third, the instability caused by the lack of credibility in the country's leadership—not just the political leadership but, in general, the military and business leadership, and so forth.

[Hernandez] Do the Armed Forces support the president?

[Jimenez] The Armed Forces support the Constitution and the republic's laws.

Vote Count Ends in Barinas; Governor Elected

PA1412183592 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 1550 GMT 14 Dec 92

[Report by Jose Marcano]

[Text] Senator David Morales Bello has confirmed the victory of Rafael Rosales Pena as governor of Barinas State following a review of all electoral documents.

As we all know, partial totals had been registered but there were still 55 electoral documents to process. The commissions appointed by the Supreme Electoral Council [CSE] failed in their attempts to reach an agreement.

The CSE returned to its original position on 12 December, reiterating the autonomy of the main electoral board in Barinas and asking it to make a final decision.

Thus, the pending electoral documents were processed and as Morales Bello noted, Governor Rosales Pena was reelected.

[Begin recording] [Morales Bello] The way I look at it, there are no vote or counting problems. Everything has been reviewed and the totals have been registered. It has been established that Rosales Pena won by a margin of 851 votes.

Now the municipal board has to confirm it and set the date, which could be today, when Rosales Pena will be declared governor-elect of Barinas.

[Marcano] Does it mean that the 52 [figure as heard] documents that were being reviewed were totaled and added to the rest?

[Morales Bello] Exactly, since the CSE said the main electoral board must fulfill its duty, the electoral board ordered the 55 documents to be totaled and they were already added to the general state totals. [end recording]

Although Ramon Martinez was proclaimed the winner by Sucre State's main electoral board, Senator Morales Bello said the Democratic Action Party will ask the CSE to review that decision and, if necessary, ask the Supreme Court to annul the electoral documents.

Guyana

Jagan To Establish Independent Media Authority

FL1512182092 Bridgetown CANA in English 1654 GMT 15 Dec 92

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Dec 15, CANA—Guyana's president, Dr. Cheddi Jagan, says the media have a "cardinal role" to report the facts honestly, fearlessly and to the best of their ability. President Jagan, speaking to journalists, said the media must be the watchdogs to ensure that institutions and polices are entrenched to safeguard the democratic ethics.

"In this, the media have a vital and critical role. They must constantly be watchdogs to ensure that institutions and policies are firmly entrenched to safeguard the democratic ethics and practices which grew out of the October 5 (general election) experience," he said.

"Today, as always, it must be the cardinal role of the media and you, their practitioners and owners, to report the truth or facts honestly, fearlessly and to the best of your ability. In everything you do, you should be guided by this approach as an article of faith."

He reported that the government was ready to review

legislation that applies constraints on the media's bid to gain access to information.

Dr Jagan said: "We are committed to running an open and accountable administration and, as you may agree, government ministers and officials have been doing their part to respond to legitimate and justifiable requests for information."

".... As soon as possible, we will proceed with the establishment of an independent broad-based media authority or commission, armed with the necessary legislation to propose and ensure professional standards with regards to both programme content and technical efficiency....", the American-trained dental surgeon said.